US hotel in Jakarta bombed; 13 dead

Story below, COL. 1

PMA to warn cadets vs dangerous alumni

IWAS SA BAD INFLUENCE!

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI N. Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy, Maj. Gen. Edilberto Adan, has proposed to the Armed

PMA/ A20

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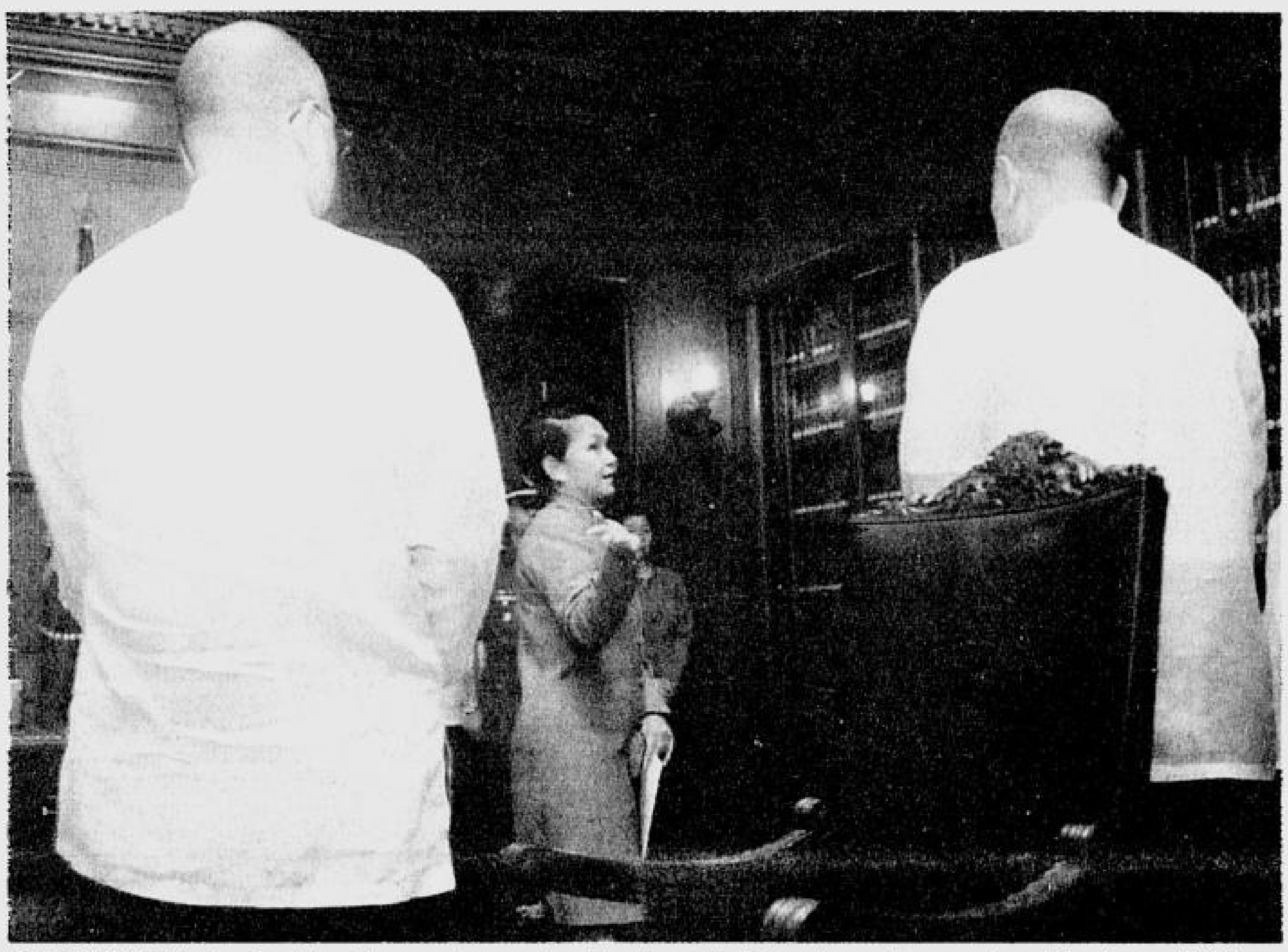
Wednesday, August 6, 2003 ★★ 50 pages / 4 sections / vol. 18 / no. 239 P15

Gringo to surface if state of rebellion lifted



PLEASANTRIES before President Macapagal swears in on Tuesday at the Palace three other members of the six-man Feliciano commission—Fr. Joaquin Bernas, UP Prof. Carolina Hernandez and retired Commodore Rex Robles (right). At left is PMS head Silvestre Afable.

EDWIN BACASMAS

'95 Class goat to probe valedictorian

By Joselle R. Badilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Call it sweet revenge, but the "goat" of the Philippine Military Academy's Class of 1995 has been tasked with doing a gargantuan mission: To investigate his class valedictorian and mistahs (classmates), as well as other officers and enlisted personnel who joined the July 27 mutiny in Makati City.

Former Air Force 1Lt. Roland Atilano Narciso, 30, is the youngest member of the six-member commission created by President Macapagal-Arroyo to investigate the roots of the failed mutiny of young military officers.

The commission is headed by retired Justice Florentino Feliciano. Aside from Narciso, its members are retired Justice Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes, Fr. Joaquin Bernas, S.J., University of the Philippines professor Carolina Hernandez and retired Commodore Rex Robles.

Narciso left the Philippine Air Force three years ago and is now a pilot of Philippine Airlines, flying the Manila-San Francisco-Los Angeles route. His father is a former PAF and commercial pilot who is now the chief executive officer

'95 CLASS/ A20

GMA promises due process to senator

UNTIL the state of rebellion is lifted, Sen. Gregorio Honasan will not come out in the open, his wife said on national television last night.

Jane Honasan said her husband, the highest official so far to be implicated in the failed attempt at ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo, was not in hiding but was fearful of being arrested because the state of rebellion was still in effect.

The state of rebellion allows the government to arrest without a warrant anyone suspected of having a hand in the plot to oust the President.

Accusing the government of "creating a monster out of him (Honasan)," Jane said her husband would no longer be able to talk to the media and air his side once detained.

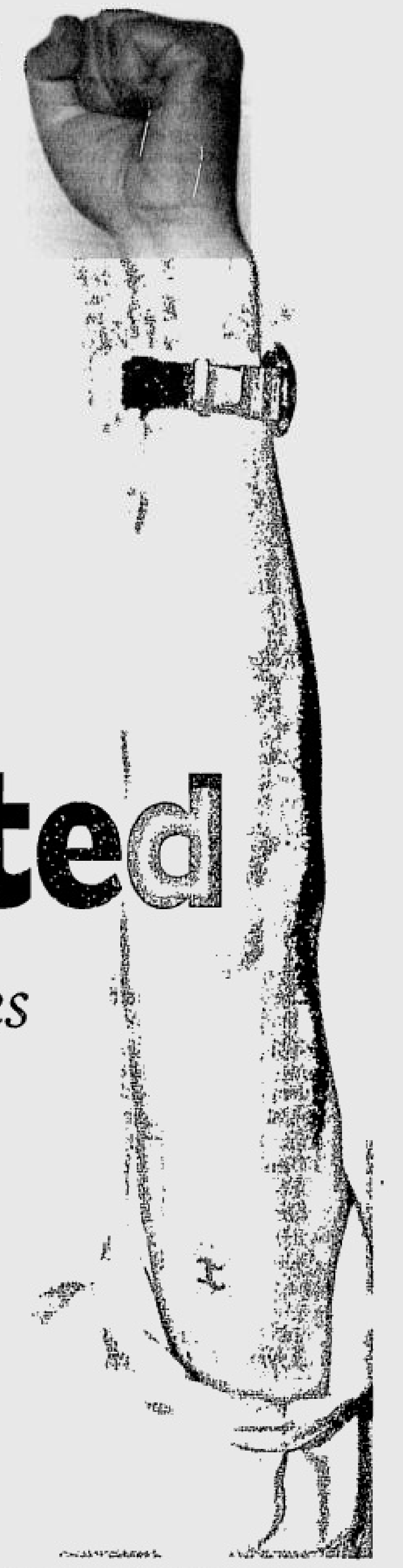
She described her husband as a man who loved his country, but Gen. Narciso Abaya, Armed Forces chief of staff, called Honasan a threat to national security.

At a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo, Abaya said the threat posed by Honasan stemmed from his being part of the "coup d'etat conspiracy." He said the threat would remain until Honasan was arrested.

On Monday, the government filed coup charges against Honasan before the Department of Justice based largely on the testimony of a "star witness" who was allegedly present when Honasan led a group of junior officers in a "blood compact" for the ouster of Ms Macapagal.

Honasan said the charges against him were fabricated and linked to his bid for the presidency in 2004.

GRINGO/ A19



ARTIST'S concept of the mark of the mutineers: "H" hits the spot for the alleged ritualistic bloodletting not any less solemn for being too close to the pits or thereabouts.

'Armpit test' may spell jail or freedom

By Christian V. Esguerra and Christine O. Avendaño

AN "ARMPIT TEST" may help determine whether Sen. Gregorio Honasan will go to jail.

Should the former Army colonel decide to surface and meet with investigators, he would be asked to raise his left arm, a police official said yesterday.

The presence of a scar near his left armpit would partially confirm the gov-

ARMPIT/ A19

MILF confirms death of Salamat on July 13

Murad voted new MILF chair

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front is as "strong as ever" with the designation of Murad Ebrahim as successor of the late Salamat Hashim, MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar announced yesterday.

Murad, 56, formerly MILF vice chair for military affairs, is a civil engineering graduate of the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. He joined the Moro National Liberation Front in 1972 and belonged to the second batch of MNLF fighters who trained abroad.

MURAD/ A18

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—What it earlier refused to comment on, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front confirmed yesterday: the death of its chair Salamat Hashim.

His voice cracking with emotion, MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar said Salamat, 61, died at 11:30 a.m. on July 13 "somewhere in Mindanao." He said the death was kept from the public because MILF officials and field commanders had to be informed first.

"He did not die in vain," Jaafar said. "He has done his part in planting the seeds of the struggle for self-determination."

In Manila, Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the government's chief peace negotiator, said Malacañang was not upset by the MILF decision to withhold information on Salamat's death five days before a ceasefire was declared between the government and the secessionist group.

"We should [understand] that the

MILF/ A18

SUCCESSOR to the MILF founding chair, Ebrahim Murad, a polished orator, is viewed as more of a moderate than the late Salamat Hashim.

AFP FILE PHOTO

Guardians to close ranks in crackdown

By Dona Pazzibugan and Armand Nocum

THE GOVERNMENT is asking for more trouble if it goes after all Guardians, on mere suspicion that they were part of the failed coup attempt.

Ex-Capt. Proceso Maligalig, spokesperson for the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa and founder of a Guardians faction, said some Guardians were merely "used" by the coup plotters.

Maligalig said the Guardians would close ranks if they perceive a crackdown. "*Sana 'wag pag-initan lahat ng*

GUARDIANS/ A20

Romulo: Sorry if my remarks annoyed GMA

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday welcomed the move by the country's leading business organizations to rally behind President Macapagal-Arroyo to restore confidence in the post-mutiny economy.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the President had always viewed the business sector as "natural allies" of

ROMULO/ A20

US hotel in Jakarta bombed; 13 dead, 149 hurt

JAKARTA—A powerful car bomb exploded outside the American-owned JW Marriott Hotel in downtown Jakarta on Tuesday, killing 13 people and wounding nearly 150 in what an official said was likely a suicide attack.

At least one foreigner, a Dutch citizen, was reportedly among the dead. At least two Americans were wounded in the explosion.

Shattered glass and puddles of blood covered the ground for two blocks around the luxury hotel, a popular place for visiting foreigners and diplomats in a business district near many embassies.

Witness Jaganathan Nadeson said he looked out of his window on the 22nd floor after the blast and saw a vehicle engulfed in flames in front of the hotel—apparently the car bomb, he said.

"People were screaming, panicking," said Sodik, a witness who was having lunch on the 27th floor of an adjacent building. "I thought it was an earthquake."

Black smoke billowed from the front of the Marriott, a regular venue for receptions held by the US Embassy. During the past two years, US officials have held 4th of July celebrations at the hotel.

Indonesia's Vice President Hamzah Haz said the attack may have been targeted against US interests in the country. "I think it is possible that was what was behind it," he said.

US HOTEL/ A17

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The western section of Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/08/06/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Megamall bomb suspects nabbed

By Christian V. Esguerra

POLICE and military intelligence agents yesterday arrested two alleged Muslim extremists suspected of carrying out the bombing of the SM Megamall three years ago that killed one and injured 11 others three years ago.

The two suspects confessed during interrogation that the mall bombing was a "dry run" for the near simultaneous blasts on Dec. 30, 2000 in Metro Manila that killed 22 people and injured more than 100, said Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Dante Ambo, 37, and Danny Boisan, 32, said to be members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's urban demolition team, were arrested in Maharlika Village, a Muslim community in Taguig early yesterday.

They have been charged with murder and illegal possession of explosives, Matillano said.

Police recovered a grenade, two homemade bombs, detonating cords and blasting caps during the arrests, he said.

Ambo and Boisan are also alleged to be part of the "sleeper" cell of the Jemaah Islamiya, believed to be the Southeast Asian unit of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida international terrorist network.

"They maintain the legal structure and are activated only when they are tapped to carry out terrorist acts," police said.

Matillano said the two suspects were accomplices of Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a self-confessed member of the Jemaah Islamiya who said he was involved in the December 2000 bombings.

Ambo and Boisan, who were presented to reporters at a press conference at Camp Crame yesterday, told investigators they managed to slip the bomb into the shopping mall by strapping the explosives on their bodies.

"I was involved in planting a bomb at SM Megamall," Boisan told reporters in Filipino. "We did it to scare away foreign investors."

Boisan said he and Ambo were each paid P50,000 for the job.

He said the order to bomb Megamall was given by Nabil Panayaman, an alleged MILF commander based in Metro Manila.

But Boisan denied knowing the Indonesian al-Ghozi, the prime suspect in the Rizal Day bombings, who escaped from Camp Crame on July 14.

Al-Ghozi had confessed to a Jemaah Islamiya plot to bomb Western embassies in Singapore. He had been serving a 17-year jail term for illegally procuring explosives for the plot.

Police are looking for Panayaman and Randy Buday who allegedly helped Boisan and Ambo carry out the Megamall bombing.

The MILF has denied involvement in the May 21, 2000 explosion in the women's restroom of the SM Megamall in the Ortigas Center. *With a report from AFP*

Barbers backs Reyes; Enrile sees Ver ghost

SEN. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, has stepped forward in support of beleaguered Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Barbers asked the military forces and the public yesterday, in the interest of "national unity," to back up Reyes' "strong leadership" against mounting calls for his ouster.

Describing Reyes as a "protector of democracy," Barbers said in a press statement that the country would face a "major crisis" if the Defense chief gave in to "unjust pressure from people aiming for a military junta."

The solon warned that Reyes' resignation would result in the breakdown of the military force, loss of democracy, and disunity.

Barbers' statement was a reaction to the demands of young officers and enlisted men who staged the Makati mutiny last July 27. Another target of the mutineers, Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus, recently resigned as chief of the AFP's intelligence service.

Naturally, Reyes is not getting any sympathy from opposition leaders.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said Reyes' situation was "like deja vu" because it reminded him of the late Gen. Fabian C. Ver's crisis before the fall of the Marcos dictatorship.

In a press briefing called by the opposition in Quezon City, Enrile—who was once defense minister himself—said the Oakwood siege was "history repeating itself."

Enrile advised Reyes to step down and let AFP Chief of Staff Narciso Abaya take the post, since he said Abaya, "a very professional leader," currently enjoyed the respect and loyalty of the military.

Reyes' refusal to step down, Enrile said, was only fuelling speculations that President Macapagal was not in control, and that her political survival was much dependent on Reyes.

Asked if he saw himself in the person of his protege, Sen. Gregorio Honasan, Enrile quipped, "That's unfair to Senator Honasan."

During the same briefing, lawyer Homobono Adaza, one of two chief counsels hired by the rebel officers, said his clients were categorically denying that they used the homes of Laarni Enriquez, mistress of ousted President Joseph Estrada, and former Presidential Management Staff head Ramon Cardenas as safehouses.

Adaza also insisted that the soldiers, now detained in Camp Aguinaldo, did not violate any law, "except perhaps Makati's anti-smoking ordinance." *Armand N. Nocum*

Abaya wants AFP bidding done by DBM

ARMED Forces chief Gen. Narciso Abaya has asked that the budget department, not the AFP, be the one to conduct the bidding for the procurement of P100 million worth of supplies for soldiers to avoid any suspicions of irregularity.

Abaya admitted that there was "some degree of corruption" in the military's procurement services, one of the allegations made by a mutinous band of junior officers who seized the Oakwood Premier hotel in Makati on July 27.

"I admit there's some degree of corruption in the AFP and since one of the areas that they think there is a lot of graft and corruption is in the comptrollership, logistics and procurement," Abaya said at a press briefing.

Abaya said he requested Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin to release the P100 million to the budget department's procurement service for it to undertake the bidding for the procurement of combat boots and uniforms for the soldiers.

"To avoid all speculations, I'd rather that the procurement service of the Department of Budget would undertake the procurement while we continue to reform the system," Abaya said.

Besides, the procurement would be fast-tracked if this were done by the budget department as he noted that the latter uses electronic bidding.

"We need to distribute this clothing and equipment, especially combat boots, right away," Abaya said.

The move to let the DBM undertake the bidding is seen as an offshoot of the short-lived mutiny of the renegade soldiers who accused the military leadership of selling arms and ammunition to rebel groups.

Before the mutiny, President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the military to set up a grievance mechanism to address the concerns, including corruption, raised by the members of the Philippine Military Academy Classes 1994 and 1995, most of whom later joined the mutiny. *TJ Burgonio*

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More RP nurses getting AIDS virus

By Blanche S. Rivera

AN increasing number of Filipino nurses abroad are contracting the deadly HIV virus, according to a UN body monitoring Aids.

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAids) reported yesterday that the nurses were being infected via medical accidents.

As of April, a total of 30 nurses were confirmed to have contracted the human immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome, according to the Department of Health Aids registry. There are only 26 reported HIV cases among Filipino entertainers working abroad.

UNAids country advisor for the Philippines Arthur Jaucian confirmed that one Filipino nurse died in Iloilo City late last year after contracting HIV from a patient in the United States.

The nurse, who was not identified, had assisted in an emergency delivery in the US hospital where she worked. Infected blood splashed onto her face and entered her eyes, Jaucian said.

"Every Filipino who goes overseas is at risk," Jaucian warned during an interview at the Interfaith Discussion on HIV/Aids at the Orchid Gardens Suites in Manila.

Overseas Filipino workers account for 32 percent of the total 1,892 cases of HIV/Aids among Filipinos since 1984. UNAids described this as a "low and slow" transmission.

Of the OFWs, majority are seafarers who had contact with commercial sex workers in different ports worldwide. Next biggest vulnerable OFW group are domestic helpers who are either raped by their employers or who engage in commercial sex for extra income, Jaucian said.

Jaucian reported that UNAids was already working with the Philippine Nurses Association on an education and information campaign. The two groups conduct a forum on HIV/Aids every three months.

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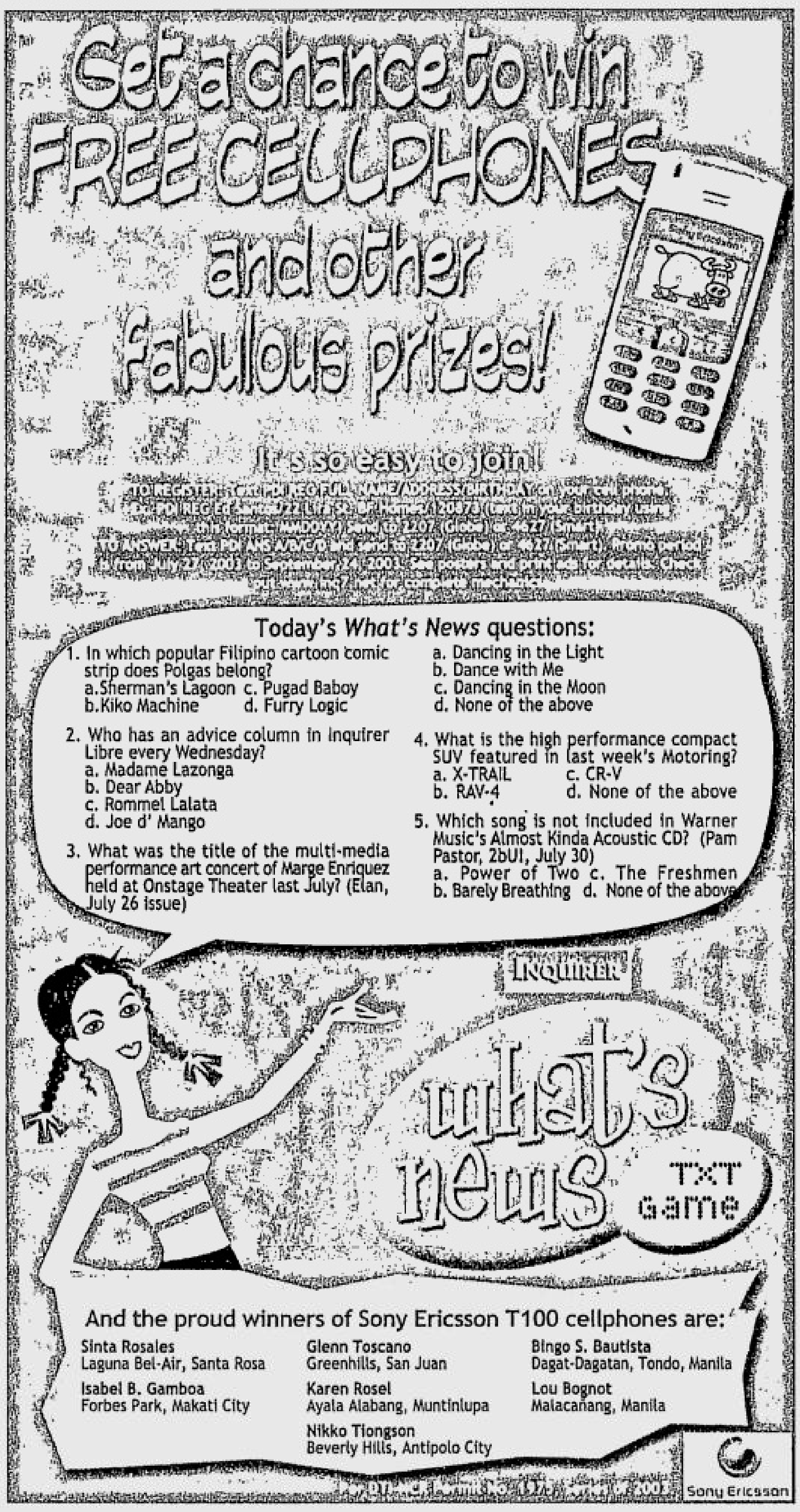
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Today's *What's News* questions:

1. In which popular Filipino cartoon comic strip does Polgas belong?
a.Sherman's Lagoon c. Pugad Baboy
b.Kiko Machine d. Furry Logic

2. Who has an advice column in Inquirer Libre every Wednesday?
a. Madame Lazonga
b. Dear Abby
c. Rommel Lalata
d. Joe d' Mango

3. What was the title of the multi-media performance art concert of Marge Enriquez held at Onstage Theater last July? (Elan, July 26 issue)
a. Dancing in the Light
b. Dance with Me
c. Dancing in the Moon
d. None of the above

4. What is the high performance compact SUV featured in last week's Motoring?
a. X-TRAIL c. CR-V
b. RAV-4 d. None of the above

5. Which song is not included in Warner Music's Almost Kinda Acoustic CD? (Pam Pastor, 2bUI, July 30)
a. Power of Two c. The Freshmen
b. Barely Breathing d. None of the above

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Paracetamol tab 500 mg	✓ 0.75	2.35	1.60/tab
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Amoxicillin cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.70	15.50	11.80/cap
Amoxicillin drops 125 mg/1.25 ml/10 ml	✓ 37.00	80.75	43.75/bot
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Chloramphenicol cap. 500 mg	✓ 3.40	37.75	34.35/cap
Chloramphenicol susp. 125 mg/5 ml 60 ml	✓ 41.40	394.75	353.35/bot
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Co-trimoxazole cap. (TM-80mg SMZ-400mg)	✓ 2.60	13.50	10.90/cap
Co-trimoxazole susp. (TM-40mg SMZ-200mg)	✓ 25.00	115.75	90.75/bot
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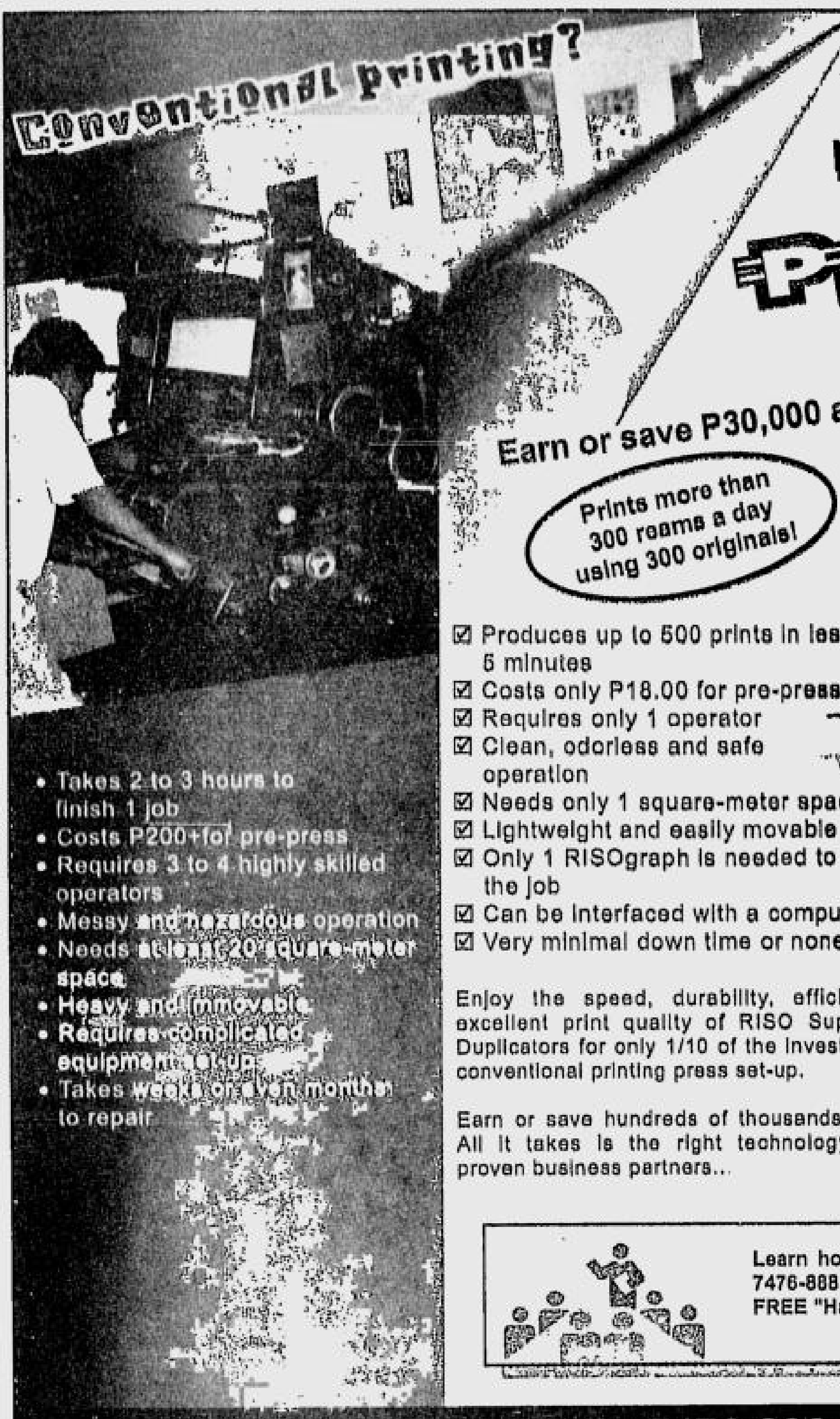
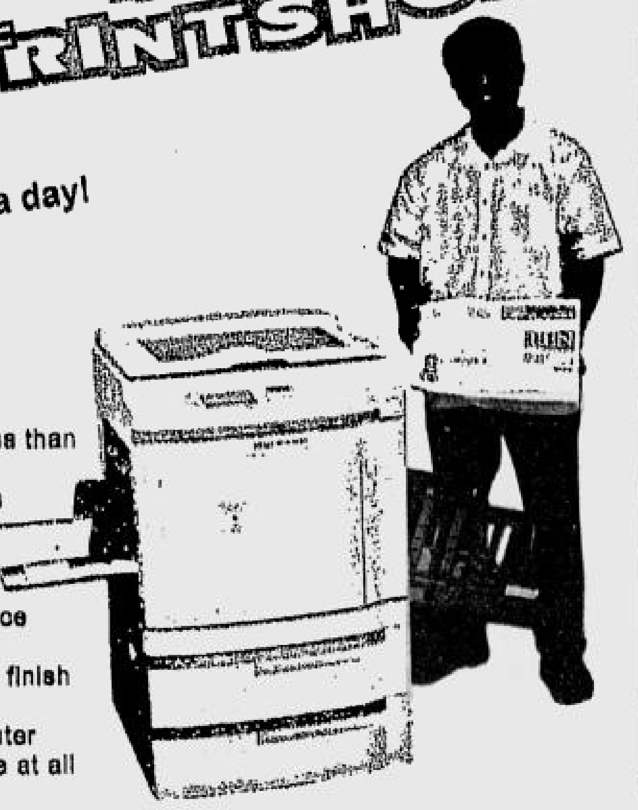
Veteran Congress scribe writes 30

VETERAN newspaperman Wilfredo "Fred" Laurel Filomeno Sr., died Monday night. He was 73.

Fred covered the Interim Batasang Pambansa in 1981-1984; the regular Batasang 1984-1986; the House of Representatives, 1987-2003.

He was the editor-publisher of the Gladiators magazine, which covered Congress from 1988 to the present. He was correspondent of several broadsheets, including Manila Bulletin, Manila Chronicle and Manila Times.

He is survived by his wife, Ding Valdehueza Pafiagao; children: Emmee and Bolet, Boy Blue and Caroline, Jong and Nola, and Nicky; and grandchildren: Earl, Dave, Ryan, Jeeboy and Angel. His remains lie at the La Funeraria Paz on Araneta Ave., Quezon City and be cremated on Thursday at 6 p.m.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Solons want tariff powers back, call off tax hearings

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE on ways and means has approved a proposal to take back from Malacañang the power to fix tariff rates as it suspended deliberations on all tax pending measures until after the Bureau of Internal Revenue finally reclassifies and collects the right excise taxes from new cigarette brands.

The power to determine tariffs was transferred to Malacañang during the time of former President Marcos. The approval of House Bill 4958 filed by Rep. Exequiel Javier of Antique was made by the committee chaired by Rep. Julio Ledesma IV of Negros Occidental.

The recommendation for the return of such authority to Congress came amid protests from lawmakers that Malacañang failed to consult Congress in determining tariff rates. Ledesma said even the stakeholders in the sugar industry were not consulted by the President when the country made its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Javier complained that Congress had not been allowed to contribute in determining tariff rates and that the executive department has failed to protect local producers in its agreements with WTO member countries.

In a public hearing yesterday, the committee approved a motion by Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric D. Singson to suspend consideration of all pending revenue bills endorsed by the Department of Finance, saying that government should first collect the right excise taxes from new cigarette brands introduced after October 1996.

Singson said that since the passage of the Comprehensive Tax Reform Law (RA 8240), the BIR had failed to conduct mandatory price surveys of new cigarette brands.

He said Finance Undersecretary Grace Pulido Tan had admitted in open hearing that about P1.6 billion in excise taxes each year have not been collected due to the BIR's failure to conduct price surveys that would enable it to determine the correct excise tax classification of new cigarette brands.

BIR had released the results of a price survey in March 2003 where 11 cigarette brands were found to have higher retail prices than originally declared with the BIR. These brands, which include Astro and Memphis of La Suerte Cigar and Cigarette Company and Lucky Strike of British American Tobacco, will soon pay higher excise taxes to government once their reclassification to a higher tax category becomes final.

Although it came six years late, the congressmen welcomed the price survey and the resulting reclassification of new cigarette brands. They stressed, however, that the government should go after the estimated P4 billion in excise taxes that the BIR was unable to collect due to years of non-reclassification of new brands.

Based on BIR records, La Suerte has been paying an excise tax of only P1.12 per pack of Astro and Memphis because the suggested retail price it declared with the BIR in 1999 was below P5. However, survey results showed that Astro and Memphis were actually selling at an average retail price of P7.74, making it liable for P5.60 in excise taxes per pack.

Cheap car taxes to go down

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE EXCISE tax on automobiles, approved by the Senate Monday night, would drastically bring down the price of private cars worth P1 million and below, Sen. Ralph Recto said yesterday.

Recto, principal author of Senate Bill No. 2517, known as an Act Rationalizing the Excise Tax on Automobiles, announced that the new excise tax system would make "entry-level" cars affordable to Filipinos. But he admitted that the price of Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs)—currently exempt from excise taxes along with other vehicles with 10 or more seats—would increase.

Recto predicted that, if enacted, the new tax measure would generate a minimum incremental revenue of P740 million from locally assembled vehicles alone, assuming that vehicles sales in 2003 would remain flat at 72,832 units.

Under the Senate's proposed tax rate, automobiles worth P600,000 and below will carry a two percent ad valorem tax; while those exceeding P600,000, up to P1 million, will be taxed P12,000 plus 20 percent of their value.

A car worth over P1 million, up to P2 million, will be taxed P92,000 plus 100 percent of its value, while an automobile worth P2 million and above will be taxed P1.09 million plus 150 percent of its value.

Thus, under the proposed scheme, a Toyota Revo, with an SRP (suggested retail price) of P598,560, would now cost P610,531, a difference of P11,971. Kia CD 5, with an SRP of P234,667, would cost P208,114, a difference of P26,000.

Honda City four-door MT, with an SRP of P554,621, would cost P491,925, a difference of P62,000. On the other hand, the Nissan Patrol, an SUV with an SRP of P1.95 million, would cost P2.75 million. A Ford Expedition, with an SRP of P2 million, would cost P3 million.

CR-V MT, with an SRP of P896,313, would cost P948,958, while CR-V AT (automatic), with an SRP of P961,389, would cost P1.039 million.

But other luxury cars, such as BMW, are expected to benefit from the lower excise tax rates. The BMW 316i, with an SRP of P928,000, would cost P823,499; while BMW 323 AT, with an SRP of P1.45 million, would cost P1,047,092.

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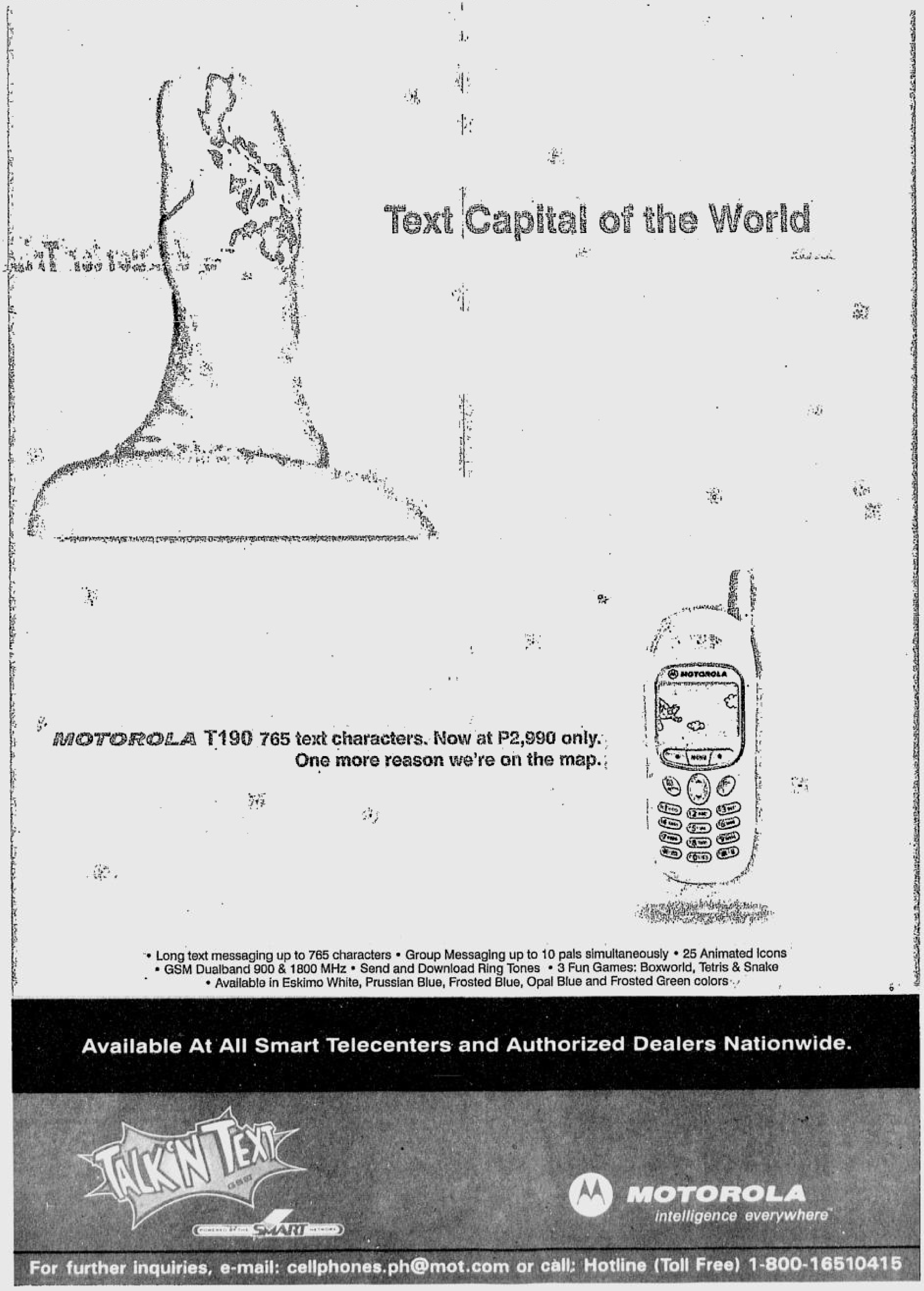
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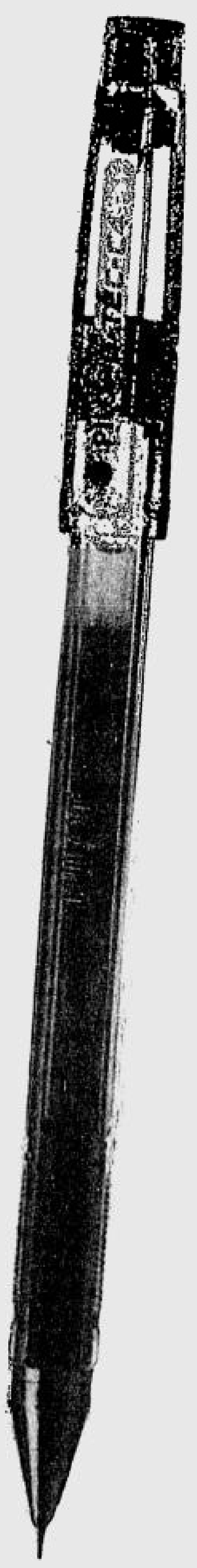
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Marcoses appeal SC forfeiture of $682M

By Philip C. Tubeza

CLAIMING they were robbed of their right to due process, Imelda and Irene Marcos—widow and daughter, respectively, of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos—yesterday asked the Supreme Court to set aside its decision declaring the Marcoses' $682 million Swiss accounts as ill-gotten and forfeiting them in favor of the government.

In a 31-page motion for reconsideration, the former First Lady said the SC, instead of granting the government's motion for a summary judgment, should have remanded the case to the Sañdiganbayan for the anti-graft court to render the "appropriate summary decision."

It said that the SC had "improperly converted the (government's) special civil action into a regular appeal . . . divested (Imelda) of her right to appeal the case on the merits, thereby depriving her of due process."

The government last week asked the SC to make the decision final and executory and to issue a writ for its execution, even if the Marcoses were to appeal it.

Irene's 23-page petition said that while the forfeiture law presumes that disputed property is unlawfully acquired, respondents in forfeiture cases "should still be given the ample opportunity to show that the subject property was nonetheless lawfully acquired."

The Marcoses said that there was an "established procedure" for forfeiture proceedings but it was "inexplicably disregarded to the great prejudice" of their right to due process.

Imelda's motion also claimed that the government failed to present a prima facie case against the Marcoses.

The Marcoses said that the state failed to produce "one iota of evidence" as to when the ill-gotten funds were acquired or "a millimeter of proof" as to the source of the escrow Swiss deposits.

Irene also noted that the evidence presented by the government were "mere photocopies" which the SC allegedly took as "gospel truth."

"It is basic in evidence that photocopies are not admissible because they violate the best evidence rule," she said.

Imelda noted that the SC decision would produce "a ripple effect" on five criminal cases against her before the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court.

'Kabayan' to spawn more rains

EXPECT monsoon rains to swamp the country, particularly the western side of archipelago, as Typhoon "Kabayan" continues to move on its northwest path towards the north eastern part of Luzon.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical Astronomical Services Administration reported that Typhoon "Kabayan" would not directly affect any part of the country.

However, Pagasa said that it would "enhance" the southwest monsoon and bring rains over the country especially in its western section. *Norman Bordadora*

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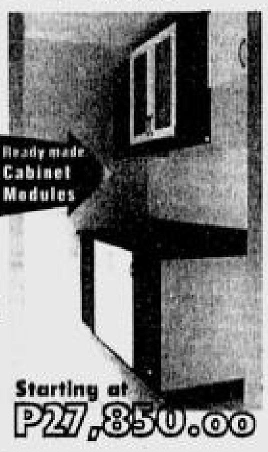

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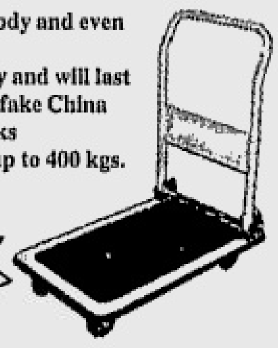

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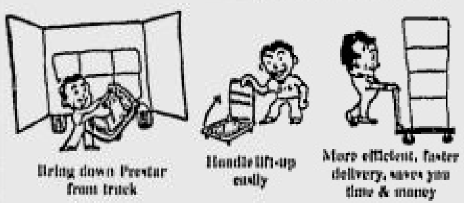

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Ping blocks Report No. 66

By Michael Lim Ubac

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday succeeded in blocking the adoption of Senate Committee Report No. 66, which recommended that he be indicted for the capital crimes of kidnapping, drug trafficking, smuggling and summary executions.

After rising on Monday to formally ask the Senate to adopt the report, administration Sen. Robert Barbers inexpicably did not move to have his motion put to a vote at yesterday's session.

And none of the administration senators seemed to care to do it either, to the surprise of reporters who had expected them to strongly push for the adoption of the report that had been gathering dust for the past two years.

In a speech before the chamber on Monday, Barbers asked the senators to immediately act on the recommendations of the report, now renamed Committee Report No. 237, the product of nine public hearings in 2001 of the joint committees on national defense and security, public order and illegal drugs and the blue ribbon committee.

The inquiry into veracity of claims that ranking officers of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force under Lacson concluded with the recommendation that the justice department investigate Lacson and several former police generals for involvement in illegal drugs, kidnapping and summary executions.

But yesterday, Barbers said the fate of the report now rested with his administration colleagues and the members of the three committees who signed it.

"I did my part," said Barbers who thought it would not be wise to push through with the voting at this point.

He said it would be up to the chamber whether it would adopt the report and eventually transmit it to the investigating agencies like the Ombudsman's Office and the justice department.

Barbers led the investigation in 2001 as chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, along with Senators Joker Arroyo and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.

Magsaysay and Arroyo chair the committees on national defense and security and blue ribbon, respectively.

Although he did not oppose a formal vote on the issue, Lacson on Monday moved to recommit the report to the joint committees for further investigation.

Barbers and Arroyo had vehemently objected to this, but was prevailed upon by Magsaysay who agreed to defer voting on the issue so as to get the consensus of committee members.

In his rebuttal, Lacson claimed that politics was behind the Senate joint inquiry.

"To prove that the purpose of this whole exercise is political, I have documents to show that (former military intelligence chief Col.) Victor Corpus was reporting to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo in the latter's office at LTA Building in Makati City," he said.

No politics in libel case, says The Firm

By Alcuin Papa

THE LAW firm of President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal attorney denied yesterday that there was a clampdown on media and critics of the administration, which filed libel cases against Daily Tribune publisher Ninez Cacho-Olivares.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, the Villaraza and Angangco law firm, of which F. Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza is managing partner, also said the cases "were not in any way motivated by politics."

"Apprehensions of a clampdown on media have absolutely no basis and its timing, over which we had no control, was not meant to silence critics of the administration," the firm said.

It added: "The cases of libel were filed by us as aggrieved private individuals seeking redress for the grave wrong done to us—nothing more, nothing less."

The law firm insisted that legal procedures were "strictly observed" in filing the suits as early as May 2003, and pointed out that the publisher was given ample opportunity to answer the complaints.

Olivares was arrested the other day in her Paranaque home by the Western Police District after a Makati judge issued two warrants for her arrest last week.

The warrants stemmed from criminal libel suits which, the law firm said, had already totaled 46, corresponding to as many newspaper articles "maliciously written against us. The firm vowed to "continue, as it is our right to defend ourselves, to file fresh cases as long as Ms Olivares continues to harass us and malign our persons and our name."

Olivares published a series of articles which alleged that Villaraza asked for $20 million from the German firm Fraport AG, foreign partner of Piatco in the NAIA 3 project, in exchange for solving the firm's legal troubles. Fraport had a falling out with its local partner.

Bail for Olivares was first set at P20,000, and later reduced to P12,000. If found guilty, she could spend four years in jail.

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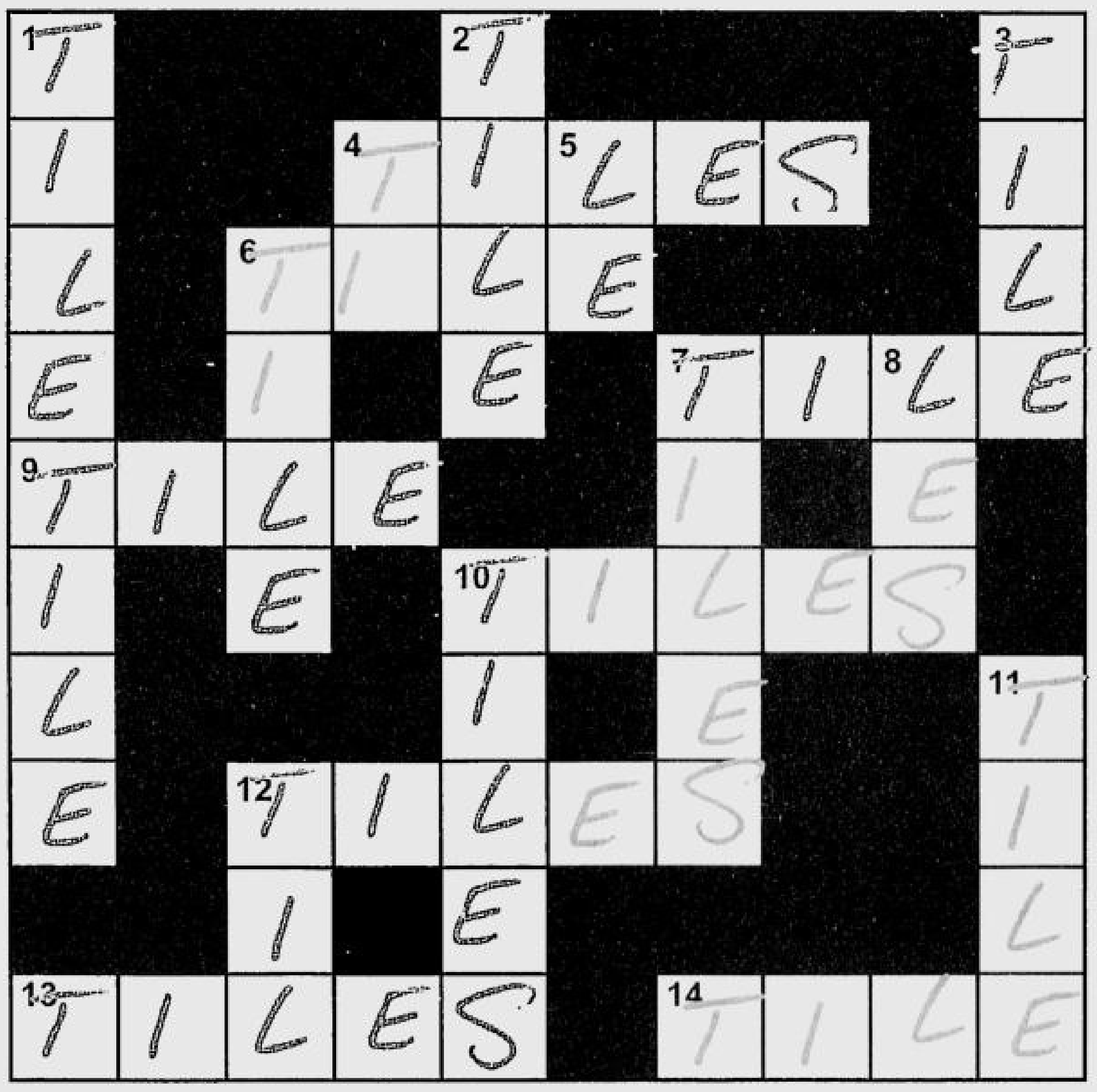

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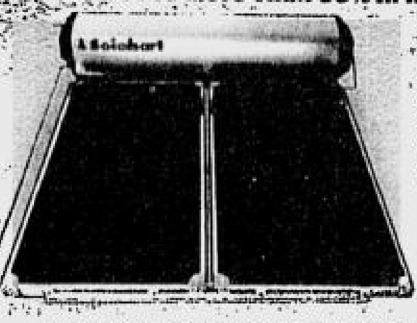

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EDITORIALS

Confused

SEN. Gregorio Honasan says he is not in hiding. He has just made himself "inaccessible" while waiting for "this very complicated situation of a state of rebellion" to clear up, he told reporters in a telephone interview Tuesday. In the meantime, according to Honasan, he continues to perform his duties as a senator, including consulting various sectors on the National Recovery Program. This is the platform for his presidential candidacy and the "bible" of the young officers who staged the daylong mutiny last July 27.

The confusion is all in his mind. If Honasan has been holding consultations on his NRP, then they are being done secretly. The last time he was seen in public was on Tuesday last week when he delivered an impassioned speech extolling the mutineers and defending himself against allegations that he had a hand in the failed coup.

Administration officials are convinced that Honasan did not only serve as a role model for the mutineers but actually urged the young officers to mount a coup. They have lined up several witnesses against him, including Major Perfecto Ragil, a communications expert of the Presidential Security Group, who claimed to have participated in a meeting between Honasan and the rebel officers. Ragil has executed an affidavit stating that during that meeting last June 6, Honasan told the group to use "force, violence and armed struggle to achieve the vision of the NRP." It was also during that meeting that Honasan led the rebel soldiers in reciting a pledge that was affirmed with a blood compact. Ragil said.

Authorities have formally charged the senator with the crime of mounting a coup d'etat, which carries a maximum penalty of 40 years' imprisonment. Honasan has dismissed the charges as not only "based on fabricated evidence and false testimonies" but also politically motivated. "One by one, all the presidential contenders are being neutralized, using the instruments of the state," he said, adding that the same thing happened to Sen. Panfilo Lacson, businessman Eduardo Cojuangco and former Education Secretary Raul Roco.

Honasan flatters himself too much by putting himself in the same league as those early birds. After he landed 13th in the 2001 senatorial elections, nobody thinks Honasan has a chance of going to Malacañang through an electoral contest, possibly including Honasan himself. So why would anybody think of harassing or persecuting him in this way?

For the first time since he made a career of plotting coups, Honasan is facing serious charges. Unless he plans to keep running for the rest of his life, he should be preparing for his legal defense instead of putting up smokescreens.

Harassed

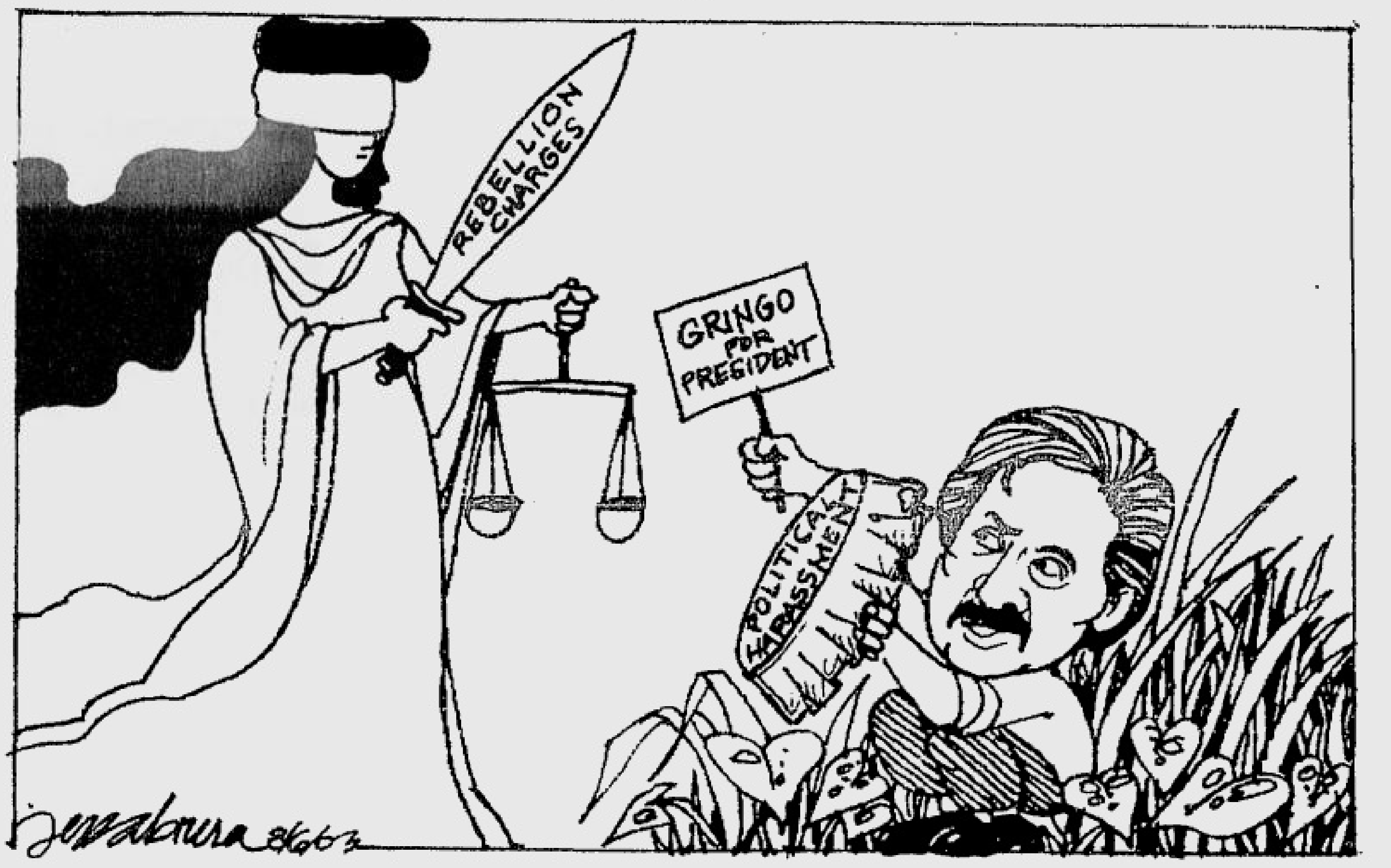
THE MANNER by which Ninez Cacho-Olivares was taken into custody Monday, for a crime of which she has still to be proven guilty, is replete with chilling implications not only for the press but also for Philippine society.

We have heard of shady characters—arrested for kidnapping, drug-trafficking, plunder and terrorism—getting far kinder, gentler and more decent treatment from the Philippine National Police, such that a number of them have easily slipped through their guards like it was just some walk in the park, literally. But the "accommodation" extended to the publisher and editor in chief of The Daily Tribune, admittedly among the harshest critics of the Macapagal administration, was definitely far from soft. She was taken from her home in Parañaque City by operatives of the Western Police District and haled to the Manila City Jail early in the morning to be detained for several hours while her lawyer scrambled to post bail for 19 warrants of arrests issued by different courts for the same complaint filed by Arthur Villaraza, who is widely known to be the personal lawyer and friend of the President.

If the arrest was meant to harass, inconvenience and embarrass Olivares, it surely did, and more: it already penalized her—never mind if she is guilty or not.

Now the air is rife with talk that more sycophants eager to please the powers-that-be manipulated Olivares' arrest. If true, this is what makes her experience very disturbing. Because then, the "early morning treatment" she got from the Manila police was not just an assault on press freedom, it was a malicious exercise of raw power, not unlike Marcos' tactics during the martial law years. So, who's next?

Or maybe, what's next?



Reviving downtown Manila

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE ELEVATED Light Rail Transit (LRT) was supposed to ease surface traffic on Rizal and Taft Avenues, from Monumento to Baclaran. It did no such thing. What it did was kill business in the two main streets that bisect Caloocan, Manila and Pasay. I didn't realize how dead they were until last Monday when we strolled along Avenida Rizal, from the foot of the MacArthur Bridge to the corner of Recto.

This used to be the downtown area, along with Escolta, of Manila. It used to be a clean, well-lighted place, bustling with shoppers, with big department stores, restaurants, bookshops, and the biggest moviehouses in Metro Manila. But those were the days before the LRT. Now the two avenues are dead and decaying. Although we used to haunt this area in the old days, I haven't ventured there in a long time, not having any business there, and also wary of muggers and pickpockets. So what I saw there last Monday was a very depressing sight indeed.

Many of the big stores I used to know are now closed, the steel shutters as sad and forbidding as the lids of coffins. All the big moviehouses in the downtown area are no more. The windows of offices in the upper floors are closed, with glass panes broken. All the buildings have not felt the touch of a paintbrush in years. And the whole area is dim, dank and dangerous, even at high noon.

But Manila's Mayor Lito Atienza, like a doctor in a hospital emergency room, is trying to resuscitate this downtown area, as he has done with Roxas Boulevard, the riverbank behind the Post Office and the immigration bureau, Liwasang Bonifacio and Plaza Miranda. And last Monday, he took us on a tour to see his patient.

I am happy to report that the patient has been revived, although still not up and about. But everywhere we saw workers trying to make it hale and hearty. Bulldozers were tearing up the street from the Lacson monument at the foot of the bridge to the corner of Carriedo. From there, the whole length of Avenida up to the corner of Recto was being paved with multi-colored bricks, including the sidewalks. The LRT supporting columns are being surfaced with ceramic tiles of attractive, colorful geometric designs. Lamps have been fixed to all four sides. The underside of the elevated rail line has been cleaned.

When the whole street is reopened before Christmas, it will be a promenade, a pedestrians' paradise with sidewalk cafés, trees and plants, and many lights. Vehicles would be prohibited, though they can cross Avenida from the sidestreets. Even newsstands won't be allowed unless they also sell flowers. Wandering street musicians will serenade the diners and shoppers. Manila's Tin Pan Alley, the old Raon Street, now Gonzalo Puyat Street, will be jumping again with music.

Even happier, more private workers are repairing the shops and offices. From the upper floors where they were working, they waved at their mayor walking below. From the doors of the stores, they shouted greetings; some of them even approached to shake hands with their mayor. A new six-storey building is actually being built on one block along the street. Avenida is really reviving.

Near the corner of Recto, the mayor said, a fountain will rise, something like the Fontana de Fravi in Rome, to welcome the people.

This is well and good for downtown Manila. But what will happen to the rest of Avenida beyond Recto, and south on Taft Avenue. The transformation and restoration will continue, Atienza said, at least up to the boundary of Caloocan in the north, and to the boundary of Pasay in the south. The mayor said he hopes his counterparts in Caloocan and Pasay will see the economic benefits of transforming Avenida and Taft into pedestrian promenades. He hopes these two main streets will eventually be like Las Ramolas in Barcelona, Spain, which bisects the city. Las Ramolas is a pedestrian promenade lined with shops, restaurants and entertainment places. You can literally walk from one end of the city to the other. Atienza says that with Avenida-Taft turned into a promenade, you can literally walk from Monumento to Baclaran. Anyway, when you get tired, you can always walk up a LRT station and ride the rest of the way.

Atienza also hopes that property owners along the two main streets will see that sprucing up their properties is good business. He is encouraging them to make their stores and building attractive to customers. And he is giving them a five-year tax holiday to encourage and help them.

But if people were to walk, shop and dine through the promenade, where will they leave their vehicles?

Answer: At the Park and Ride building behind the Metropolitan Theater in the south and at a new parking building that will be built along Recto, perhaps, at the old Bilibid compound. Then free shuttles will deliver the people to any point in the promenade. Or they can leave their vehicles at home and take the LRT and get off at either the Carriedo or Recto stations.

Speaking of the Metropolitan Theater, Atienza said he also wants to revive it and has made an offer to the Government Service Insurance System, owner of the building. But the latter seems to have too many problems to pay attention to it. Malacañang also wants the art-deco theater reopened and has released P50 million to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, though it is not certain what has been done with the money, Atienza said.

Can she do it?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

(*Conclusion*)

WHEN Marcos declared martial law 30 years ago, he faced a citizenry that was largely apathetic. One that didn't mind trading off a system that called itself a democracy, but offered only bloody elections, the rule of a privileged few, and increasing impoverishment, for one that wore a stern face but promised fairness. That was the reason the people who said the revolution was just down the corner were bitterly disappointed. It wasn't, not at the corner anyway.

Today's citizenry, for all its faults, is different. It's one that has seen martial law and knows it to be worse than the affliction it proposes to cure. It won't be so easy convincing people about its vaunted efficacy, notwithstanding the example of Singapore and many Filipino officials' Lee-envy. Martial law is no longer an unknown quantity, it is a very known one—an order that gives neither bread nor freedom. That being the case, people are bound to prefer the one that gives freedom even if can't give bread. At least they won't get shot complaining.

More to the point, this is a citizenry that has produced two Edsas. Yes, two, the last one wasn't so if by Edsa is meant a gathering of people with a purpose other than building a cult. The last one was little more than an outsized version of Lapiang Malaya uprising, and produced exactly the same results—tragic ones. The two other Edsas were something else. The first one ended 14 years of dictatorial rule, the second a couple of years of a farcical one. Both were fairly spontaneous, sudden explosions at the end of smoldering anger.

The likelihood that no one will rise to protest martial law such as happened in 1972 is not very strong. Lest we forget, shortly after Edsa II and "Edsa III," the foreign press was having a field day asking if anyone can ever govern this country without fear of being overturned by "mob rule." Even Jaime Cardinal Sin, near-exclusive franchiser of Edsa, warned against having too much people power.

Anyone contemplating martial law will have to reckon with that. A good portion of civil society may have been bought into temporary silence, but probably not an eternal one. In any case, who needs civil society? The citizens have pretty much gotten well without it since Erap's time.

And finally, the military. That was the ace in Marcos' pocket. Strange from hindsight, but though Marcos brought the military to power, he himself was **not** a military man. He was a lawyer—an astute lawyer, but not a general. He made up for it simply by projection and manipulation. He made the generals beholden to him by sponsoring them before martial law—he was their biggest benefactor—and by cultivating the image of a war hero. He depicted himself as the most decorated of Filipino guerrillas, a claim no one, least of all the generals, dared challenge. And he kept a martial posture. His bearing was martial, his tone was martial, his aura was martial. He was more martial than any provost marshal.

It was all smoke and shadow, but it worked. Martial law seemed to surround him naturally like roiling mist a vampire.

That is something neither GMA nor Angelo Reyes nor any general today, retired or active, has—complete, or even merely effective, control of the military. The fact that a coup has been launched against GMA, and that rumors of impending coups continue to dog her government, must suggest the opposite. The complete vulnerability of her regime to military adventurism. That is a very poor basis for contemplating so risky a project as martial law.

No, I don't buy Trillanes and company's charge that GMA is plotting martial law. It's not for lack of motive (God knows she has plenty of it), it is simply for lack of means and opportunity (the devil knows she has little of both).

None of this is to suggest that we shouldn't protest the extension of the state of rebellion, or that we should not be vigilant against GMA and her national security people arrogating more powers for themselves. But we miss the mark completely to think the danger lies in a prospective martial law. The danger is already there, in creeping militarism even without martial law, in the arrogation of emergency powers by GMA and her national security people even without martial law.

The danger is not in the future, it is in the present. The problem is not the declaration of a state of rebellion after the coup or its extension, the problem is the declaration of a state of rebellion long **before** the coup, and its continuation. That is the de facto declaration of a state of emergency with the "war against terror."

I will go back to that thesis again and again because it is a most important one. The problem that GMA will conscript the military for her own ends, that she will mount military rule, that she will curtail human rights, that she will suspend constitutional processes, that she will try to stifle protest, that she will perpetuate the way of war rather than of peace, that she will foment civil strife—all the things we associate with martial law—is already there. All the extension of the state of rebellion does is to heighten this process, or push it to a higher level. The time for vigilance is not now, it was yesterday.

That is what I've been cajoling civil society to do, to draw the line at GMA's "war against terror," except that civil society has found it most uncivil. Or at least the civil society leaders in government. A contradiction in terms, indeed, but I did hear someone say "NGO" no longer means non-government organization, it means new government officials.

I go back too to my favorite metaphor. Worrying about GMA declaring martial law and not about her prosecuting her "war against terror" is like telling someone who is stark naked in church: "I'm sorry, sir, but smoking is forbidden here."

Estrada's pipe dream

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

DOCUMENTS seized and revealed by the government in the wake of the failed coup attempt last Sunday draw an elaborate power grab plot which implicates among others cohorts of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

According to the documents, labeled "Campaign Plan Andres," the plot seeks to install an officers' junta, in which there is no room for a civilian component. A careful reading of the documents should shatter illusions of Estrada that the junta would restore him to power. Although Estrada has denied involvement in the mutiny, he made himself available to head a government to replace that of President Macapagal-Arroyo if it had been toppled.

Estrada indulges a pipe dream. Even though he allegedly financed the mutiny and provided staging facilities for the rebels, they wanted to grab power for themselves. Probably he would have been the first to be executed by them. If we review the history of Third World coups in the 1970s and, more recently in Pakistan, no junta ever handed back power to civilians. But Estrada's favorite pastime is not reading history.

Any complicity with Estrada would compromise the rebels' claim that they are the "heroes of the people" and that they are staging the "last revolution" to launch a total clean-up of society.

Estrada failed to regain power by riding on the backs of the *masa* by fanning their social grievances. He found a new vehicle to regain power in the disgruntled officers whose complaints about corruption in the military he failed to address during his administration whose main concern was to use presidential power to extract wealth. Estrada saw an opportunity in the mutiny to use the officers as he was walking at the end of the rope of his trial for plunder in the Sandiganbayan.

The documents, seized by the government in the Oakwood Hotel, depict an elaborate plot that has all the elements of classic coup text: seize TV stations, attack government centers, "surprise, shock action," swift take-overs and arrest of government leaders or "persons of consequence."

Textbook models are doomed to fail when coup-makers overestimate their capability to seize strategic installations—as demonstrated by the mutiny that didn't adhere to the model by making too many unrealistic assumptions. The mutiny glossed over a crucial element of success: public support, wider military support and an overwhelming public discontent over the ruling regime (which did not exist). If the rebels thought that civilians would spill out to the streets in jubilation, enthralled by their National Recovery Program, and hail them as liberators, their expectations were misplaced.

The rebels did not have to seize TV stations to ensure the success of their plot. Private TV stations played into their hands by giving the rebels, during the early hours of the mutiny, all the access to dominate propaganda while the government, owing to its slow response, created a vacuum and allowed them to seize the propaganda initiative.

In the immediate aftermath of the coup, Congress unwittingly played into the hands of the rebels, fulfilling their scenario of taking control of the communications. In the haste of the House and Senate to get into the act, they tried to preempt the executive's grievance machinery by holding hearings, ostensibly to address the "roots" of rebellion, although the government was still struggling to flush out other mutineers. The hearings last week turned out to be circuses where some lawmakers tried to play hero.

The hearings were billed as "in aid of legislation," but in reality they proved to be an "aid to rebellion." The hearings handed to the rebels a platform to ventilate seditious statements, dutifully amplified by the media in the name of "freedom of expression," without ever considering that the state has also a constitutional right to defend itself from rebellions. Without a credible state, there is no institution to protect freedom from being destroyed by groups mounting extralegal political actions like coups.

The government has been criticized for preventing the rebels from attending the hearings. Without seizing TV stations, the rebel leaders would have won another round of propaganda battle by having untrammeled access to public TV, and a platform to disseminate false information even though the danger of further turbulence had not yet abated.

Gen. Narciso Abaya, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, in aborting the appearance of the rebels in Congress, warned that the congressional inquiry stood in the way of the government's efforts to stamp out the conspiracy. Few in Congress saw the priority of ensuring the survival, except for a group in the Senate, including Sen. Joker Arroyo, one of the most steadfast defenders of political rights during the Marcos dictatorship, who warned the hearings would not led to immediate solutions to further coups, but only to "fishing expeditions" and political grandstanding.

This is not to argue that there should not be congressional inquiries into the coup. Inquiries intended to aid legislation and get to the bottom of coups and officers' grievances can wait; remedial legislation takes time and is best considered when the crisis has ebbed. Congressional hearings, done in the heat of crisis, can only exacerbate tensions. No threat to government facing military rebellion, no matter how small, has ever been repelled by unwieldy congressional investigations.

In rushing its investigations, Congress usurped the function of the presidential commission probing the coup headed by retired Justice Florentino Feliciano. If the government cannot repel rebellions, even Congress' existence is at risk.

More on cervical cancer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE COLUMNS on cervical cancer (PDI, 7/11-12/03) elicited a lot of reactions, including some that bore even more good news for women as well as the friends and families of women with cervical cancer.

Let me begin with two letters clarifying that colposcopy and other treatments for cervical cancer have been available in the country far longer than I may have made it appear in those columns. Dr. Francisco Atencio, chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology of the Capitol Medical Center, writes that "way back 1973-1974, Rizal Medical Center, through its Cancer Clinic, started the first Colposcopy Clinic in the Philippines…we started gathering data on all sites of cancer…during the directorship of the late Dr. Glicerio Bustamante. Our colposcopist was Dr. Clarita Ferre who trained under Dr. Ralph Ricket (I hope I got the spelling right as the faxed copy was smudged!), a famed cytopathologist at Cornell University in New York. She was the one who taught the hospital gynecologists under my chairmanship. Not only did we study cervical cancer, we also started to accumulate data on all cancers. These data enabled us to publish the 'Clinical Guide on Cancer Management' adopted by DOH hospitals at that time. These data also formed the backbone of cancer statistics in the Philippines and were reported to Lyon, France, to be included in the statistics of the Union Internationale Contra Cancer (UICC) which in turn published and continues to publish the CIFC (Cancer Incidence in the Five Continents). This was initially undertaken by Dr. Adriano Laudico and Dr. Divina Esteban. Their work continues to be updated to the present time and their statistics continue to be cited in literatures by people working along this line."

* * *

DR. ATENCIO adds that at present, there are several colposcopes (equipment used to take microscopic views of the cervix) in the country, "many of them in use for more than 15 years now." Among those he cited: Capitol Medical Center, Delos Santos Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, Far Eastern University Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Medical Center, Manila Central University-DTF Medical Foundation, Quirino Memorial Medical Center, United Doctor's Medical Center, St. Luke's Medical Center, University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Veterans Memorial Medical Center and World Citi Medical Center. Hospitals outside Metro Manila also have colposcopes, adds Dr. Atencio, while "a committee on Women's Health under the DOH distributed colposcopes all over the country." There should be about 100 colposcopy clinics throughout the archipelago by now, he notes.

Dr. Evelyn Parcero-Palypayon, who chairs the OB-Gyn department at FEU-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation, likewise wrote to clarify that their hospital has been offering colposcopy and related procedures since 1987 "to women from all economic sectors." She adds: "Like you, we also aim to strengthen public awareness that cervical cancer is a preventable disease."

All I can add to this information is "hurray!" It's a great comfort to know that Filipino women have the means to get an accurate and, it's hoped, early diagnosis of cervical cancer, since the earlier treatment starts, the better a woman's chances of recovery.

But, as the following letter would show, making Pinays aware of the risk of cervical cancer and the need to make an annual Pap smear part of routine health care is another matter altogether.

* * *

NOE Tuason, who introduces himself as a research scientist at the University of San Francisco Comprehensive Cancer Center, writes that they are conducting studies "to understand why Filipino women in the US do not go for Pap smear (tests). Money is not an issue. I learned that two of the reasons they don't go for the procedure are, one, they don't think it is necessary, and two, they associate it with prostitutes. The association probably goes back to the time they were in the Philippines. There might be other reasons—health beliefs, no concept of preventive medicine (you don't see a doctor unless you are sick), religious values, etc. We are trying to confirm these reasons in our studies. Do you have access to similar studies in the Philippines?"

Actually, I don't right now. But if anyone reading this knows of similar studies, you might want to get in touch with Noe, and also send me copies so I can discuss them in this space.

"Cervical cancer is a curable cancer if detected early. There is no reason for any woman to die of it. It is a shame when a Filipino woman in the Philippines or in the US does," Noe concludes, to which I say, amen!

* * *

LET'S recap several important points about cervical cancer: A woman should go for an annual Pap smear as soon as she begins to become sexually active. If the test yields the finding of "abnormal" cells, she will in all likelihood be asked to undergo a colposcopy to confirm the findings and guide the doctor on the best course of treatment.

While cervical cancer has been linked to the human papilloma virus or HPV, which is sexually transmitted, it doesn't necessarily mean that you've been sexually promiscuous (or a prostitute!) if you should develop cervical cancer. Even if you've been monogamous, your partner may not have been, and even just a single encounter with an infected partner could end up infecting him with HPV which he in turn could pass on to you. Remember, while HPV does not generally affect the health of a man, it can lead to cervical cancer in a woman.

But there is hope, not just for the treatment of cervical cancer, but also for protection against HPV. Read about these tomorrow.

What's in a name—again?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

E-MAIL response to the columns on names, surnames and naming in the Philippines was very encouraging. While I received enough material for a dozen more columns, this will have to be the last column on the topic (at least for a year) because I think my editors are not amused anymore. Today's column just had to be written because in an earlier column I expressed doubt about the existence of "Virginia Bagonggahasa." The surname seemed like another urban legend—you always hear about it from a friend of a friend. I remained skeptical because I didn't know anyone who could tell me that he or she knew someone named "Bagonggahasa." Then the e-mails poured in.

Eduardo B. Mosqueda Jr. said that someone surnamed Bagonggahasa was buried in Sgt. Mariano Cemetery in Pasay. I wanted to rush to Pasay in search of this particular tombstone but then Mr. Mosqueda's informant happened to be his father whose credibility (with me at least) slipped since he is wont to misexplain the markings on graves, such as: R.I.P as Raped in Pasay and S.L.N. as *Sa Lugaw Namatay*. We all know that R.I.P., the first letters of the Latin phrase *Requiescat in Pace*, has since been translated exactly into Rest in Peace. On the other hand, S.L.N. has the same message but is not an exact translation from Latin, and means *Sumalangit Nawa*.

Many people e-mailed that Bagongahasa is spelled with only one "g" and that people with this surname came from Laguna. Ike Sambajon wrote: "The surname 'Bagonggahasa' if I am not mistaken is from a nearby town of Laguna. My wife also comes from Laguna and she is the one who knows all about that name. The family that owns the name, after a long legal request, got their name changed to the short and simple "Basa." "Toybee" from California wrote about a friend who changed their surname from PANTI to PONTI for obvious reasons. We know people who also changed their surnames from DUCUT to DUCAT. But then, these are not as interesting as Mr. Sambajon's other story:

"It was more than 25 years ago when I graduated from high school and during the practice for our commencement exercises, instead of getting a laugh, I really pitied one of my batchmates when her surname was called to the stand as 'LABATETE.' And she happened to be a girl."

Frank Jimenez attended a "*giling-giling*" in Paete, Laguna and heard the surname announced and thanked as one of the sponsors of the event. Josie Fuentes had acquaintances in Laguna who were Bangongahasas who shortened their surnames to Basa. Alexander Basa of Paete said their ancestors came from the nearby town of San Antonio and that his grandfather was born a "Bagongahasa" but died a "Basa." Amador Acuran Basa Jr. asked that people stop laughing and look at the original meaning of the surname: *Bagong* in old Laguna Tagalog meant a new arrival (*bagong dating*) and *gahasa* was a synonym for impatient (*apurado*). Tony Basa e-mailed from Tokyo, saying his father Ador shortened their surname to Basa. Family lore was that an ancestor during the choosing of surnames in the late 19th century wanted to jump the long line, leading the official in charge to remark, "*Kabagobago mo kagagahasa mo*," therefore, your name shall be Bagongahasa!

In time *gahasa* changed meaning from "impatient" to "rape." This explains why we seldom hear the rebuke, "*Huwag kang gahasa!*" (Don't be impatient) or "*Teka muna, huwag mo akong gahasain!*" (Wait, don't rush me.) Consider that rape is often done in haste.

Another example is *bakla*, which means a gay person today. But in the 19th century *Pasyon*, you will be surprised to find a line that says "si Cristo'y nabacla." Christ is not gay but during the agony in the garden he was "confused" (nabacla).

A historical and etymological dictionary for Tagalog and other Philippine languages will enrich our knowledge of the words we speak every day. There is much research needed in language and our surnames, and the first place to start would be the Catalogo Alfabetico de Apellidos reprinted by the National Archives in 1973. While one can comb the list for surnames like; baboy, ongoy, ongoyan, pototoy, otong and utut, just reading the entries for "A" gave me so much gas. I share my favorites here and leave the readers to their own explorations; Abad, Abat, Abas, Abaya, Abaca, Abala, Abayari, Abalahin, Abadilla, Abanceña, Abelgas, Abellana, Abella, Abogado, Abolorio, Abobot, Abot, Abotan, Absurdo, Abuso, Academia, Acapulco, Acido, Acin, Acyat, Acyatin, Adan, Adapon, Adriatico, Advincula, Africa, Africano, America, Asia, Agoncillo, Agua, Aguas, Aguada, Aguado, Aguirre, Agustines, Aha, Ahas, Ahit, Ahitin, Ahitan, Alac, Alagao, Alacdan, Alaga, Alagad, Alboroto, Alcalde, Alcala, Alcantara, Alcasid, Aldaba, Alegro, Alegria, Aleman, Alemango, Alimasag, Aligato, Aligue, Alipin, Alipinin, Alipostahin, Alila, Alisin, Aliponnga, Alibangbang, Alinbayogon, Amag, Amarillo, Ambag, Ambagan, Ambe, Ambit, Ambita, Ambut, Ambuta, Amboy, Ambot, Ambota, Ambon, Ampalaya, Amsterdan, Anay, An-an, Anticristo, Apostol, Apellido, Apalit, Apurado, Aquin, Apac, Aquit, Aquitin, Arac, Araro, Aray, Arao, Arai, Ari, Aristoteles, Artillero, Artista, Aruta, Arugay, Asin, Aslam, Asuan, Asunto, Ate, Atienza, Atun, Auay, and Auay-auay. If the letter "A" can give one so much entertainment with names familiar and unfamiliar, you can imagine what the whole list is like.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Huks

HIGH BLOOD

Minyong Ordoñez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

DURING my childhood years, circa 1948-1952, my best friends were *Huks*, the armed rebels of the Marxist-Leninist Communists.

Majayjay, our town, is mountainous, forested and known to Philippine Army Command as a Huk haven. Huks from Majayjay would vanish quickly into adjoining hills after ambushing government soldiers. Later, they would join their friends at their houses to drink fiery *lambanog*.

Banahaw, the huge mountain that loomed over Majayjay, was the center for communist recruits because Stalin University was established in its hidden plateau.

Many boys in our town were fascinated by gun-carrying huks and were mesmerized by tales of their bravery in the battlefields.

My three boyhood buddies, Jimu, Duardo and Erasto, all of my short pants days in my bucolic neighborhood called Bulacbulac, joined the huks.

The first to join was Jimu, who was 14 at that time. Jimu's family was dirt poor. He was barefooted, always wearing the same soiled, old khaki pants every day. A silly smile always broke from his dark face. Jimu never went to school and did nothing but eke out a living. He had a workhorse which he used to earn money as *manghahakot*. Jimu could hitch any load in his horse; harvests of palay, coconuts, tomatoes, *sayotes* and *dama juanas* of moonshine lambanog.

Before Jimu joined the huks, we worked together transporting unhusked coconuts from the groves to the roadside for pick up by the copra truck.

Jimu taught me how to care for a horse. The animal must be fed morning and afternoon with freshly cut grass mixed with *darak* and, for energy drink, a pail of water with molasses. After a hard day's work, the horse must be given a bath in the river and brushed dry.

Once I invited Jimu to my *lola's* house. Upon seeing the clean and shiny floor of our sala, he refused to come in. "*Nakakahiya*," he said glancing at his mud-caked feet. "*Puro putik ang paa ko*." A week after, Jimu joined the huks.

My other huk friend was Duardo, my constant companion. He dropped out of school at age 7 because according to his mother Na Onor, Duardo was *patal* (very poor IQ). But what Duardo lacked in intelligence, he made it up in physical strength. He could run like a deer, jump over river boulders like a frog and climb coconut trees like a monkey. He acted like a protective big brother to me. Whenever I was thirsty, he would climb a coconut tree to pick a fruit so I could drink its juice. He was good with the *bolo* and with it, crafted our bamboo toys: fencing swords, walking stilts and *sumpit* guns.

Duardo was about 11 when he was recruited as a courier by the *taga-labas* a synonym for huks. He told me secretly that his assignment was to alert huks when government soldiers hit town.

Months later, Duardo changed sides. He became a spy for government soldiers. He loved guns and the soldiers allowed him to clean them. He could describe to me the power of a .45 caliber handgun, a Garand and a carbine rifle.

Duardo made one fatal mistake. He took a trip to the barrio for a quick errand. The huks caught him, tied him to a tree trunk and was hacked to death for treachery. I became scared of huks.

Erasto, Duardo's elder cousin was my other huk friend. He was 15, a know-it-all boy who got us spellbound by telling his experiences on sex, courting girls and lambanog drinking.

Erasto was in love with my 12-year-old stepsister Leonor and he would appear from nowhere to follow Ate Leonor when she goes out to the river to wash the laundry.

Erasto ran into serious trouble with his father, Mang Leoncio, our town's protestant minister. Erasto became dead drunk one night and cursed everyone in sight. Mang Leoncio lost his temper and gave him the hardest slaps ever to land on his face. Next day Erasto went up Mount Banahaw to join the huks.

A year after Erasto reappeared furtively. I didn't recognize him at once. His face had shrunk, his skin had darkened and his hair grew long like a bandit. His *maong* clothes were dirty, torn and faded. "I'm hungry," he said. "Get me some food. I haven't eaten for days!" I rushed home and returned with cold leftover rice and fried hito. Erasto devoured the food furiously, talking in between mouthfuls. "Huk food is awful," he said. "It tastes like pig's food. We eat all the same bad food. *Sa komunista pantay-pantay ang lahat*."

With his stomach full, Erasto became bubbly. He was a raconteur once more, telling me the story of the day they conquered the town of Lucban. After they've disarmed the police force at the Municipio, he felt starved. He was going to raid a house for food when he chanced upon an ice cream man. He pointed his gun at him. "Don't move!" he shouted as he scooped ice cream with his free hand and shoved the contents to his wide open mouth, once, twice, thrice up to the tenth gluttony. "My stomach got bloated." Erasto snickered as he finished his story. Then he quickly vanished into the bush.

After two years, it was Jimu who reappeared one night. I was happy to see him. He showed me his Garand rifle and told me of the many gun battles he fought at Sierra Madre. He boasted that bullets couldn't harm him and he showed me his *anting-anting*, an unusual wet bronze crucifix. "*Ang Kristong pinapawis*," he said. "It renders me bullet proof."

Jimu asked me if I could spare him my old shoes. I promptly rushed to our house to get my rubber shoes and gave the pair to him. He thanked me with that silly smile of his. That was the last time I saw Jimu.

In the early '50s, Ramon Magsaysay became secretary of national defense and led a systematic defeat of the huks. His coup de grace was the capture of the communist politburo, a team of intellectuals and radicals who provided the ideology and leadership in the communist movement.

Jimu surrendered and migrated to Bicol never to set foot in our town again. Erasto also gave up because he couldn't stand bad food anymore. He migrated to Mindanao to start a new life. Duardo's grave was never found.

By the '80s, communism was on the road to collapse in Europe. The Berlin wall crumbled. Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev launched glasnost (liberalization) and perestroika (political reforms) which triggered the self-destruction of communism in Russia and all the Socialist regimes in Eastern Europe.

As soon as Russia opened its doors to foreign visitors, I took a trip to St. Petersburg (formerly Leningrad), a city of great ballet, art museums and classical architecture. To have a quick impression of the Russian people, I spent long hours at bus and subway stations observing people's moods, facial expressions, attire and mannerisms. The picture was very drab and saddening. The Russians didn't have the eagerness, vibrancy and happy smiles of people in the streets of Manila, Hong Kong and Bangkok.

I realized that the communism kills people's dreams and hopes.

Suddenly I remembered my Huk friends: Jimu, Duardo and Erasto, and I truly felt sorry for them.

—

Minyong Ordoñez is chair and CEO of Basic Advertising.

Dangerous fanatics

I FIND nothing wrong about fanaticism. The mutinous young military officers who laid siege on Oakwood last Sunday are fanatics. They are fanatics for their ideals, their fraternal bond, their beliefs, their being soldiers. There's nothing particularly wrong with those things—almost.

Every person is a fanatic. I, for one, am a basketball fanatic. I believe there's no other sport as exciting as basketball. If somebody refutes that, then I totally shut down and dismiss that person's assertion. Fanaticism works that way, it is a sacredly held belief. It is compelling. It is sometimes dangerous.

It is dangerous if it strays away from something originally thought as beneficial for the greater majority. If the strength of your belief is, in reality, its weakness.

Those poor idealistic young soldiers simply chose to idolize the wrong messiah—Sen. Gregorio Honasan. They are fanatic believers of Honasan's tenet, called the National Recovery Program. There may be reason to the message, but the messenger is flawed. That consequently led to a flawed delivery of their message —an attempted coup that pathetically morphed into a mutiny.

Honasan's reputation as an anarchist should have turned them off. The man led two bloody revolts in the 1980s and still managed to escape punishment. The fact that he now walks in the halls of the Senate did not help this nation any. We are much too forgiving as a people.

Fanaticism is acceptable if it provides correct ideals and favorable results for the majority. But if it will be used as a convenient excuse to plunge the nation in disarray and throw its economy into a tailspin, then it must not be condoned. It must be condemned.

Navy Lt. (s.g.) Antonio Trillanes may be a hero in a perfect world in another universe. But in our world, imperfect as it is, one must judge heroism by the extent of prudence and wisdom one possesses. Sacrificing the good of the nation for a false messiah is no excuse for young soldiers to roam freely in our streets again and threaten our nation's peace with guns and vague sound bytes.

—ANTONIO V. LOCSIN,
Xavierville Subdivision,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

What's wrong with our military?

IT is very lamentable that former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez passed away without getting an answer to the question "General, what is wrong with our country?" which he asked after surviving an attempt on his life in the early '80s.

The military is suppose to be our people's defenders. Not our enemies within. What the rebel groups have failed to accomplish in their continuing quest to overthrow our Republic, our military, alas, has also tried to do many times. Thank God, they have all been frustrated.

Now comes the mutiny in Makati. Today, the question we ask: What's wrong with our military?

The military may be well advised that civilian authority remains supreme. The military coup against the despotic president in 1986 could have failed without support from the Filipino people. This is the fact. The lesson: Without people's support, no military uprising or coup will succeed!

Soldiers are sworn to allegiance to the flag and the Constitution. What's wrong with our military, general? Are we breeding soldiers who do not understand the motto, "Courage, Integrity and Loyalty," which is taught at the Philippine Military Academy. Are they so immature to think that their grievances can be addressed by a show of might and threat? Does integrity to these soldiers mean showing no respect to duly constituted authorities?

As we move forward and start seeing a bright future, here comes a bunch of honchos proclaiming themselves the savior of this great Republic. This is insanity and a big disillusion!

If these soldiers are saying that "the economy is just a side issue compared to what they are trying to achieve," well, Mr. General, maybe there is need to revise our curriculum in our military schools.

No amount of enticing foreign investors and friends will succeed when they see that this Republic has, from within, enemies in government uniforms.

Sure they have legitimate grievances. But so do the greater number of our people whose problems are far graver.

Our hero, Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino was right, after all. He said: "How can you put the military back to the barracks when all that former President Marcos did was to spoil them by giving them a taste of power in government. It is like toothpaste, once you press it out from the tube, you cannot put them back."

Maybe, this is what's wrong with our military. They are lost and disoriented.

—HJALMAR M. QUINTANA JR.

The heroism and delicadeza of Victor Corpus

VICTOR Corpus was a hero of my youth. I even dedicated to him and his daughter Chelin my final examination piece in Speech class. His name became for a while that battle cry of marching student activists.

His daring raid on the PMA armory and eventual defection to the NPA was a propaganda coup for the fledgling communist movement. I believe he also inspired Lieutenant Tagamolila and his brother to follow suit. The last thing I heard, he refined the NPA tactics for guerilla ambuscade.

I do not know why he rejoined the AFP after his release from detention in 1986. I am also unable to ascertain if he indeed betrayed former comrades in the underground so he could be reinstated in the military service.

Corpus had the misfortune of being passed over in the top military hierarchy by officers then junior to him in rank and ability. However, I do not think that the bitterness it might have engendered would be enough to drive him to plan killing innocent civilians. I am not prepared to believe the accusation that he masterminded the Davao bombings.

In resigning from the Isafp and probably from the service, Corpus has shown delicadeza, an old value sorely missing in government at present. Incidentally, another value that our political leaders have largely ignored is *palabra de honor*, which I ask the President to consider.

If Corpus is leaving the corrupt and oppressive AFP, he can always return to the people, who will always welcome him back, unless he has blood debts to pay. Neither the mutineers nor the officials are worth serving or siding with.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ,
420 Gov. A. Pasual St.,
Navotas, Manila

Lotto for education

AFTER READING the article "Lotto should support education" sent by a letter-writer named Mr. Guillermo M. Alonso of Asturias, Cebu, I felt good to know that there is one citizen in the Philippines who cared for the less fortunate, the oppressed and the youth, in particular.

The gospel of Matthew says; "Whatever you do to the least of my brethren you do unto to me." The future of our young has been taken for granted for so long now.

The idea is good: Lotto cards can be marked: "Philippine Lotto for Education!" With this, people who play lotto will be aware they are supporting our country even in just their little ways.

—CRIZELLE E. GOMEZ,
Tala, Caloocan

President Magsaysay never was a Senator

JEROME Aning committed a mistake when he mentioned in his article, "Former Vice President Maning Pelaez dies, 87," published in the INQUIRER issue of July 29,2003, that President Ramon Magsaysay was a senator of the Republic when Pelaez befriended him. The well-loved President never became a senator but was a congressman from Zambales when he was appointed Secretary of National Defense in the early '50s by then President Elpidio Quirino.

—PAUL R. MORTEL,
MBLA Court, Malanday,
Marikina City 1805

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Report: Iran nears having A-bomb

LOS ANGELES—Iran appears to be in the late stages of building a nuclear bomb and has sought help from scientists in Russia, China, North Korea and Pakistan, the Los Angeles Times reported on Monday.

Citing its own three-month investigation into Iran's clandestine nuclear capacity, the Times said it had strong evidence Iran's commercial program masked a plan to become the world's next nuclear power and it was "much closer to producing a bomb than Iraq ever was."

Iran has consistently denied it has plans to build nuclear weapons and has said its program is for peaceful civilian use.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said the United States was working closely with the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure there were more thorough inspections of Iran and its weapons program.

"It is a matter that remains a serious concern. We're working with the international community. We're working with the IAEA to make sure that they do not continue on this course, which is unacceptable," McClellan told reporters in Crawford, Texas, where US President George W. Bush was vacationing.

The Times, in the story from Vienna, said it was unclear when Iran might produce its first atomic weapons. Some experts thought two to three years was likely while others believed the Iranian government had probably not given a final go-ahead.

In Vienna, a spokesperson for the IAEA declined to comment on the story. "We do not comment on media reports," spokesperson Lothar Wedekind said.

The story cited a confidential report by the French government in May it said concluded Iran was "surprisingly close" to having enriched uranium or plutonium for a bomb.

Reuters last month reported that UN nuclear inspectors found traces of enriched uranium in environmental samples taken during recent inspections in Iran.

Foreign intelligence officials told the Times the CIA had briefed them on a contingency plan for US air and missile attacks against Iranian nuclear installations.

"It would be foolish not to present the commander-in-chief with all of the options, including that one," one of the officials was quoted as saying. The CIA declined comment on such a plan to the paper.

The newspaper said North Korean military scientists were recently monitored entering Iranian nuclear facilities and were assisting in the design of a nuclear warhead. *Reuters*

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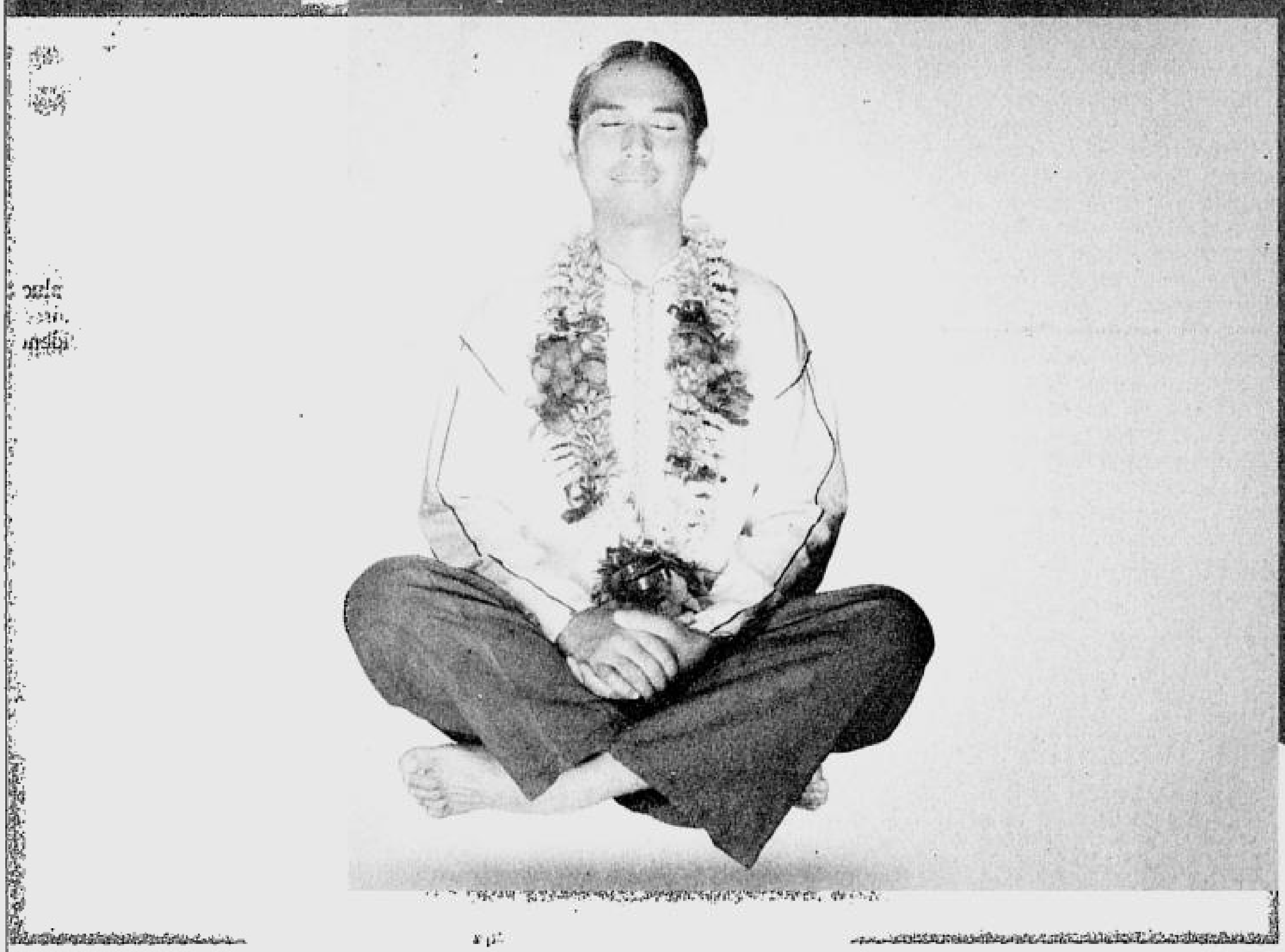

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Hiroshima will never forget, but Japan may

A KOREAN woman in traditional chogori dress offers a flower bouquet and prayers before a memorial monument for Korean victims during a memorial service at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Aug. 5. Hiroshima was devastated by the first nuclear attack on humanity on Aug. 6, 1945, which hastened Japan's surrender in World War II. AFP

TOKYO—Hiroshima remembers its atomic-bomb holocaust 58 years ago on Wednesday with alarm bells ringing over an open challenge to its anti-nuclear policy.

"Is Japan allowed to have nuclear weapons?"

The question—once taboo in Japan—has been posed by a Japanese website for about a year while US conservatives recently fueled the debate by saying Japan can go nuclear to counter North Korea's nuclear program which surfaced last October.

Surprisingly, the suggestion has won support from 53 percent of nearly 8,000 respondents on the "VOTE.co.jp" site, which solicits votes on a wide range of issues from global politics to show business.

Despite the site's arguably limited audience, the question itself may signal a shift in public sentiment. Until recently the subject was off-limits in the only nation to be attacked by nuclear weapons.

The poll was initiated in June last year after Japanese leaders challenged the nation's so-called "allergy" to nuclear weapons and backed the US-led operations in Afghanistan ahead of the Iraq war.

In a university address, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe said it was "not necessarily unconstitutional" for Japan to use small, so-called tactical nuclear weapons.

Then his boss, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda, said Japan's 35-year-old policy banning the production, possession and presence of nuclear weapons on its territory could be "reviewed" but not during his term.

Such remarks would have cost them their jobs only years earlier and sparked fears of renewed militarism and territorial ambitions in neighboring nations, where memories of Japan's wartime aggression persist.

In 1999, Shingo Nishimura was forced to resign as vice defense chief when he suggested that Japan's parliament needed to discuss having a nuclear arsenal.

Japan's post-war constitution renounces armed forces and bans the use of force in settling international disputes.

But in the hope of turning Japan into a "normal country," successive pro-US governments, dominated by the conservative Liberal Democratic Party, have stretched the limits of constitutional interpretation with the progressive buildup of the military, the euphemistically termed Self Defense Forces.

Last month, they approved the dispatch of troops to help Iraq in non-combat operations.

The nuclear debate reached its peak when US Vice President Dick Cheney said in mid-March that the idea of a nuclear-armed North Korea would "probably set off an arms race in that part of the world."

"And others, perhaps Japan, for example, may be forced to consider whether or not they want to readdress the nuclear question," he said. "That's not in China's interest."

Hiroshima mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, a former Social Democrat lawmaker, has voiced his fears "that what the government aims for is a nuclear-armed country."

In Hiroshima's annual "peace declaration" at the A-bomb anniversary ceremony, Akiba will demand the government expand its non-nuclear policy to seek a ban on the production, possession and use of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world. *AFP*

Bush administration accused of intimidation in intel flap

WASHINGTON—Former US Ambassador Joseph Wilson, a key figure in the Iraq-Niger uranium controversy, accused the Bush administration on Monday of using intimidation tactics to stifle criticism about its handling of prewar intelligence on Iraq.

Wilson was sent by the CIA to Niger in 2002 to investigate a report that Iraq was trying to obtain uranium from the African country, but returned to say it was highly doubtful such a transaction had occurred.

President George W. Bush made the Iraq-uranium claim in his January State of the Union speech. Critics have said the Iraq-Niger assertion, which later was found to be based partly on forged documents, showed the administration had tried to hype intelligence to make a case for going to war.

Wilson, on a panel of speakers at the National Press Club, said there had been several attempts to discredit him, but mainly through an article by Chicago columnist Robert Novak that said two senior administration officials said Wilson's wife suggested sending him to Niger to investigate the uranium report. Novak's column named Wilson's wife and said she was a CIA operative on weapons of mass destruction.

Wilson would only speak about his wife's employment in hypothetical terms without confirming her place of work. But he said if Novak's column was true, then the Bush administration had breached national security by revealing the name.

"Any time that a senior administration official leaks the name of a CIA operative, even one in the weapons of mass destruction business, what that senior administration official is doing is a breach of national security," Wilson said.

"The reason for it was not to smear me or to even smear my wife," Wilson said. "The reason was to intimidate others from coming forward."

He said when intelligence analysts see attempts to discredit him and the suicide of David Kelly, a British weapons expert on Iraq, they will be reluctant to step forward.

Kelly became embroiled in the biggest political crisis for British Prime Minister Tony Blair's government after the BBC used the former UN weapons inspector as its main, anonymous source for an explosive report that the British government had exaggerated the case for war in Iraq.

Democrat senators Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Charles Schumer of New York last week called for an investigation into who exposed Wilson's wife.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan, during a briefing last month, dismissed claims administration officials had revealed a CIA operative's identity.

"That is not the way this president or this White House operates," he said in addressing a question about the Novak column. "There is absolutely no information that has come to my attention ... that suggests that there is any truth to that suggestion. No one in this White House would have given authority to take such a step."

Wilson said that analysts seeing stories about him and his wife and about Kelly would question whether to talk to lawmakers who might hold investigations on the Iraq war.

Congressional sources have said the Senate Intelligence Committee has not received complaints from analysts about the administration's handling of prewar intelligence on Iraq.

"So that's what it was designed to do, it was clearly designed to intimidate," Wilson said. *Reuters*

Powell denies he's leaving

WASHINGTON—US Secretary of State Colin Powell denied Monday that he had told the White House he does not intend to stay on if President George W. Bush wins a second term next year, and said reports that he planned to leave were based entirely on "gossip."

"It's nonsense," Powell said of a report in the Washington Post that said his deputy, Richard Armitage, had recently told national security adviser Condoleezza Rice that he and Powell would be stepping down even if Bush is reelected in 2004. *AFP*

RECORD HEAT WAVE IN BRITAIN

Youths jump into the sea from a small pier on the beach front in Brighton in southern England during a heat wave Aug. 4. Britain may blaze a trail into the record books this week with a chance that temperatures will top the 37.1 degrees Celsius all-time recorded high. REUTERS

US considers punishing Israel over barrier, says senior official

WASHINGTON—The United States is considering punishing Israel for the construction of a controversial security barrier in Palestinian areas, a senior US official said Monday.

The plan would withhold from Israel US loan guarantees in the amount the Jewish state spends on it east of the 1967 Green Line division between Israel and the West Bank, the official said.

"It is something that is being looked at," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"Real questions have been raised about the fence and we're discussing how we should express our concerns in a concrete way."

The official said the proposal was still being debated by the White House and the State Department and that no decision on it would likely be made before September.

Shortly after the official spoke, Secretary of State Colin Powell stressed that US concerns about the construction of the barrier, which the Palestinians claim is an attempt to establish the boundaries of their future state outside the negotiating process, were real.

And, Powell noted with disapproval that along some stretches, the barrier is being built in Palestinian territory, jeopardizing the potential success of the US-backed "roadmap" for peace.

"A nation is authorized and it is within its rights to put up a fence, as it sees the need for one," Powell said in an interview with Radio Sawa, a US-funded Arabic-language radio station that broadcasts to the Middle East.

"But in the case of the Israeli fence, we are concerned when the fence crosses over onto the land of others, and if it is constructed in a way which makes it more difficult to move forward on the roadmap, this causes us a problem," he said. *AFP*

Vote on gay bishop postponed

MINNEAPOLIS—Episcopal bishops postponed a vote at the last minute on Monday on the church's first openly gay bishop to investigate charges of sexual misconduct.

"We have two concerns: one, his relationship to the Web site of Outright.org, and two, an e-mail accusation of inappropriate conduct circulated to a group of bishops," New Hampshire Bishop Douglas Theuner told his fellow bishops after the vote was called off.

"We have full confidence in the presiding bishops' commitment to fully investigate these matters," Theuner said in reference to the Rev. Gene Robinson, who was set to succeed him as Bishop of New Hampshire.

It was not clear if bishops would take up the issue of Robinson's installation—which threatens to trigger a schism in the 77-million-member global Anglican community—before the end of the church's convention on Friday.

"Questions have been raised and brought to my attention regarding the bishop-elect of the diocese of New Hampshire," prompting the investigation, the presiding bishop, Rev. Frank Griswold, said in a curt statement.

The statement, issued just two hours before the scheduled vote, said Robinson supported the investigation. A highly visible figure during the church's convention over the past week, Robinson was not available to comment.

Church officials gave reporters copies of a recent e-mail sent to bishops by a man identified as David Lewis of Manchester, Vermont, claiming that Robinson touched him improperly "a couple of years ago" and calling him a "grab-assing skirt-chaser."

"My personal experience with him is he does not maintain appropriate boundaries with men. I believe this is an alarming weakness of character that alone makes Gene unsuitable for the office of bishop," the note, dated Sunday, said.

A Robinson supporter, Michael Hopkins, head of a gay and lesbian church group, said he questioned the timing of the accusations and said questions about Robinson's fitness had been answered before his June election to head the diocese.

"It's frustrating and disappointing," Hopkins said.

The church will also look into a Web site for Outright, a group Robinson co-founded to help gay teens, that both his supporters and opponents say recently had links to pornographic Web sites. *Reuters*

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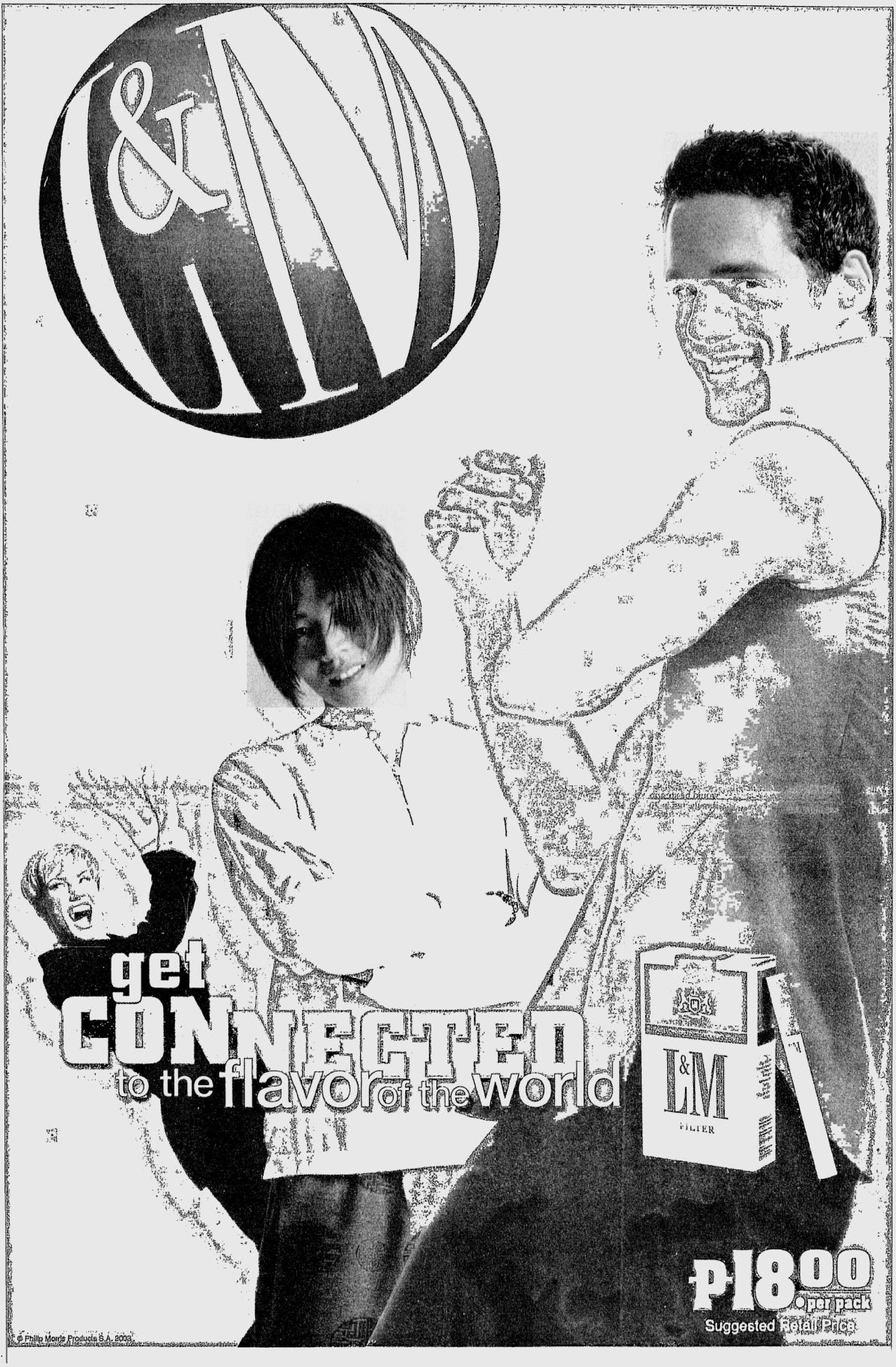
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AS THE COUNTRY is rocked with coup rumors, these soldiers continue to hunt Abu Sayyaf bandits in the jungles of Basilan. REUTERS

Army heads in C. Mindanao vow loyalty to GMA administration

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Military officials here have made the assurance that units under them were still loyal to the chain of command.

Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commanding officer of the 301st Army Brigade operating in Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat province and part of Maguindanao, told the INQUIRER that government forces under his unit were all accounted for.

Dema-ala said enlisted personnel and even the junior officers under his command have signified their loyalty to the present administration.

Brig. Gen. Alexander Yano, commanding officer of the 601st Infantry Brigade operating in Davao del Sur, Sarangani and South Cotabato, including the cities of Digos, General Santos and Koronadal, said residents in these areas have nothing to worry about.

Yano allayed fears that some elements under his unit were gearing up for participation in the rumored coup attempts to be launched in the coming weeks.

Yano said the visit of Col. Danilo Lim, chief of the 2nd Scout Ranger Regiment, to Palimbang town in Sultan Kudarat last Saturday was part of the routine check up.

Lim was one of the masterminds of the 1989 failed coup attempt against the Aquino administration.

Two companies under the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion have joined the manhunt operations against suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits who landed in Barangay Libua in Palimbang last July 5.

Yano, the youngest Army general in the AFP, was among the four generals mentioned by the renegade junior officers in the military whom they reportedly trust.

On Friday, the young officers wrote a letter to former AFP chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu expressing their disgust over what they called a breach of agreement and a betrayal when the Department of Justice filed criminal charges against the officers and soldiers who participated in the Oakwood incident.

They reminded Cimatu about what had been agreed upon during the negotiation, which was for the soldiers to submit themselves to court martial proceedings.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Reds open to Gringo meet

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr., *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

LUCENA CITY—With persistent rumors that Sen. Gregorio Honasan has gone underground and has been in hiding in the vicinity of Sariaya-Candelaria-Tiaong towns in Quezon, communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal yesterday said the Communist Party of the Philippines would be willing to meet and talk with the senator regarding his plans.

Asked in a text interview what the position of the New Peoples Army would be should Honasan enter any communist-controlled areas, Rosal replied, "*Simple lang. Kakausapin at aalamin kung ano ang sadya sa teritoryo ng* CPP-NPA-NDF" (It's simple, we will talk to him and find out his business in the CPP-NPA-NDF territory).

"*Kung pumasok na may mabuting layunin, siyempre kakausapin. Palagay ko naman ay hindi papasok ng walang pasabi* (If he enter our territory with good intention, of course we will talk to him. I bet he will not come here without a word)," he clarified.

However, Rosal pointed out that any future partnership of NPA forces with Honasan's groups is remote.

He said there is a big difference between them and Honasan.

In Camp Nakar, the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Unified Command said they have been monitoring Honasan's supposed presence in Quezon.

However, Maj. Jose Broso, Solcom public information officer, clarified that the focus of their monitoring and strategic setting up of mobile checkpoints was not aimed at Honasan, but also at other threats such as the communists and organized criminal groups in the region.

"As far as Senator Honasan is concerned, we just leave his fate to the country's justice system," he said. He stressed that there was no specific instruction for their men to arrest Honasan.

Broso also clarified that there were no remnants of the failed mutineers group among Solcom's men.

"Everything here is normal. All the field commanders remain solidly loyal to the constitution and the AFP chain of command," he said.

Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Quezon police chief, told the INQUIRER that all the reports on Honasan's supposed presence in Quezon turned out to be "negative."

He said the police have been conducting mobile checkpoints since Friday along the Maharlika Highway in the perimeter of the three Quezon towns, "but there was no Senator Honasan in sight."

Honasan, who has not been seen in public since Tuesday last week, had denied he has gone underground and said he was determined to push through with his bid for the presidency next year despite the coup d'etat charges filed against him by the Macapagal administration.

With criminal charges filed against him on Monday for his alleged role in the July 27 mutiny in Makati City and the continuous implementation of the state of rebellion, Honasan said he would remain "inaccessible until all these were clarified."

Antique dad suspended for sexual harassment

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—The Visayas Ombudsman has ordered the suspension of an Antique provincial official after he was found guilty of sexually harassing a female employee.

In a decision, the anti-graft agency ordered engineer Henry Bernardio suspended for six months without pay for grave misconduct.

The decision, penned by Graft Investigation Officer II Carla Narvios-Tanco on May 12, was approved by Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas Primo Miro on May 30.

This was the second time in three years that Bernardio, former Provincial Planning and Development Officer, was found guilty of the same offense.

Bernardio has appealed the ruling.

The decision was based on a complaint of a 26-year-old casual employee who was detailed at a project under the provincial engineering office.

The victim claimed that Bernardio forcibly kissed her and fondled her private parts inside his car on May 22, 2002 after he offered to take her home.

Before molesting her, Bernardio allegedly told the victim there would be a mass lay-off of employees but promised to spare her and give her a permanent position, the victim said in her complaint.

Bernardio denied the charges. He also cited inconsistencies in the victim's statement.

He filed a motion for consideration on July 25, reiterating his claim that the victim's testimony was not supported by "substantial and credible evidence."

Boholano released from Sabah jail back in hometown

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—A Boholano jailed in Sabah on false kidnapping charges is back in Bohol after Philippine authorities successfully worked for his release.

Patronilo Balaba, 53, arrived in Bohol last Aug. 1, a month after he was released from a Malaysian jail and shipped back to the Philippines.

"Not anymore," Balaba said in Cebuano, shaking his head when asked if he would still like to return to Kota Marudo where he has a wife and a son.

Balaba was interviewed by the INQUIRER yesterday when he visited the office of Vice Gov. Julius Caesar Herrera to express his gratitude for the efforts exerted for his release.

Herrera, however, was out of the country on study leave.

"If nobody interceded, I would be in jail for a long time," Balaba said.

He was arrested in Kota Marudo, Malaysia last Feb. 6 after being accused of kidnapping Malaysian national Maria Bororong. Bororong actually eloped with Romeo Baja, a native of Sierra-Bullones town, also in Bohol, who lived in Balaba's house.

Balaba said he was detained in three different jails, the last one he described as Malaysia's "Muntinglupa" (national penitentiary).

Baja and Bororong, who have since settled in Matin-ao, Sierra-Bullones, executed a joint affidavit absolving Balaba of any knowledge of their relationship and their decision to flee to the Philippines.

Herrera's office, which had sought the assistance of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, faxed a copy of the joint affidavit to Malaysia that eventually led to Balaba's release.

Balaba said there were other Filipinos in the jail, most of them Muslims. "The other Filipinos who were there ahead of me were surprised why I was released ahead of them," he revealed.

After his release and processing, he was shipped to Zamboanga by Malaysian authorities and was received by the Philippine government, Balaba said.

Social welfare personnel in Zamboanga arranged for his boat fare to Cebu and gave him P200 for his food and other expenses for his trip back to Bohol, he added.

From Cebu, he took a ferry to Talibon and then a bus to Sierra-Bullones.

Since his arrival in Matin-ao last Aug. 1, Balaba said he still had not seen either Baja or Bororong. He learned that Baja came to his house last Sunday but he was out.

Balaba has been working as an illegal alien in Sabah for the last 19 years. He came home once, in 1984, but returned to Malaysia where he worked as a mason.

His wife and youngest son are still in Kota Marudo but Balaba said he is asking them to come home and join him.

Although they have accumulated some belongings in Malaysia, Balaba said he has no plans of asking his wife to take them with her due to the high transport costs.

Bataan dad nabbed for hostage-taking

MARIVELES, Bataan—Police arrested a municipal councilor after he held hostage another councilor and the town's administrator on Monday night.

Reports said Councilor Norberto Venturina, who was reportedly drunk, went to the Jerome Restaurant in Barangay Alas-asin at about 7 p.m. He saw Councilor Hernando del Rosario, a political rival, and municipal administrator Leonardo Mallari who were dining there.

Venturina reportedly confronted the two officials and threatened that he would remove the pin of the hand grenade he was holding.

Frightened by Venturina's threat, Del Rosario and Mallari refused to go out of the restaurant. A resident in the area reported the incident to the police and a negotiation was held.

Vice Mayor Victoriano Isip reportedly intervened and asked Venturina to calm down and talk things peacefully.

Isip and his wife convinced Venturina to leave the area after about two hours of negotiations. Policemen then disarmed Venturina and arrested him. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

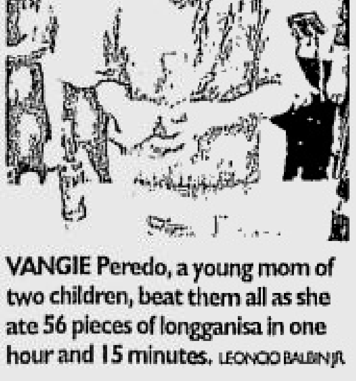
Young mom, teener win in 'longganisa,' 'empanada' eating contests in Ilocos Sur

THE CONTESTANTS of the longganisa-eating contest give their very best to eat as many as they can to bring home the bacon. LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

VIGAN CITY—A 29-year-old mother finished off 56 pieces of *longganisa* (homemade sausage) while a 17-year-old girl ate 27 pieces of *empanada* in an eating contest organized by the provincial government to promote Ilocos Sur's two famous delicacies.

Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano said the provincial government held the contest on Monday as part of the culminating activities of the province's nutrition month celebration.

Vangie Peredo, of Purok a Dakkel here, bested 22 other contestants and consumed 56 pieces of *longganisa* in one hour and 15 minutes.



VANGIE Peredo, a young mom of two children, beat them all as she ate 56 pieces of longganisa in one hour and 15 minutes. LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

Antonette Molina, of Bantay town, edged 18 other contestants by eating 27 pieces of *empanada*, a snack made from assorted vegetables, *longganisa* and fresh eggs stuffed in a ground rice wrapper.

Molina, who said she participated in the contest for fun, finished the *empanada* in an hour.

The *empanada* is a favorite snack of residents and tourists. Stalls selling *empanada* can be found around Plaza Burgos.

Winona Santos, Ilocos Sur tourism officer, said fast food chains have been sprouting in the province, making Ilocanos forget their native snacks. She said showcasing the two delicacies would help create awareness on these products.

"We like to create awareness to bring back and increase the patrons of these two delicacies," Santos said.

Peredo received P2,800 while Molina got P1,350 as their prizes. Each *longganisa* and *empanada* that they consumed was equivalent to P50. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Huey crashes

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A Huey helicopter crashed into a mountainous area here Sunday but all its passengers and crewmembers were declared safe. Western Command (WesCom) chief Vice Admiral Ruben Domingo said the chopper left the hangar of the 570th Composite Tactical Wing at around 7 a.m. to ferry five soldiers at Mount Salakot in northern Puerto Princesa. Three soldiers suffered head and arm injuries. The injured passengers were identified as TSgt. Cesar Crion, A1C Adonis Robles and A2C Rolando Tiu. Domingo said the chopper attempted to land on a plain area in Mount Salakot but a strong wind blew. The tail of the chopper was caught in a fence that caused its sudden overturn. Another Huey helicopter rescued the passengers. ***Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Guingona grilled

SAN PABLO CITY—Vice President Teofisto Guingona said the Philippines today needs a president "with the heart not so much the mind," with the vision for the good of the country. Guingona said during his visit here last week that he was not referring to anyone when he answered the question of who deserves to be the next president. The Vice President did not answer a query on whether his reported plans to run for president in 2004 was final. He also turned down questions by media asking whether President Macapagal-Arroyo has greater chances of winning if she finally decides to run in the 2004 polls. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Drug sellers held

ROSARIO, Cavite—Police and members of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency arrested two persons suspected of selling marijuana during buy-bust operations on Sunday in Barangay Bagbag 11. Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, Cavite police director, identified the suspects as Anna Dichilon y Gano, 29, native of Hapao, Ifugao and Molley Buminaang y Boghong, 20, both residents of Barangay Bagbag 11. Rosales said numerous complaints had reached his office from concerned citizens that unscrupulous persons were selling marijuana to students of a nearby high school. Six kilos of marijuana were confiscated from the suspects. ***Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

'Lazy' police chief, 7 honest ones lauded

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—From a lousy cop to decorated police chief.

In a sudden twist of fate, Chief Insp. Audie Madrideo, Tanza, Cavite police chief, felt what it's like being ridiculed and then congratulated for a job well done.

In simple rites held Monday at this camp, Madrideo and seven police officers were awarded with the Medalya ng Papuri (Medal of Commendation) for their "exemplary honesty, loyalty and dedication in police service."

Seven of the awardees were lauded for turning down bribe money in exchange for the freedom of arrested drug pushers in the region.

Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal said the awardees best exemplified the "real values of a paragon Philippine National Police member."

Madrideo made the headlines for being ridiculed by Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina after Calabarzon police and Criminal Investigation and Detection Group members raided a seaside mansion used as illegal-drug factory in Barangay Capipisa in Tanza.

Lina assailed Madrideo and the town police for letting such a drug laboratory, said to be the grandmother of all drug labs in the country, operate under their noses. He then ordered the immediate relief of Madrideo from his post.

Lina's decision came as a surprise even to Madrideo's superiors.

Cavite police chief Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales insisted that Madrideo did his part in the drug raid and that "he was new in the area."

"He was appointed only last May 28. He was barely two months when the raid happened. It would be very unfair for him if we hastily jumped to conclusion (that he had not been doing his job)," Rosales stated.

"This is a big relief for me and my family," exclaimed Madrideo.

He said he was not bothered after reading from some newspapers that Lina wanted him out. "My superior knows better about what I'm doing."

But he said his family was affected.

Madrideo, together with his men, PO3 Apolinario Gonzales and PO1 Mario Rufin Jr., got the commendation after entrapping lawyer Danilo Emelo who tried to bribe them with P35,000 in cash for the release of his client, Floriemay Subay, a suspected drug pusher who was earlier arrested in a police operation.

Subay, 18, who was eight months pregnant, was caught last July 19 in a drug buy-bust operation of the Tanza police inside their house in Barangay Julugan 8. Suspect Charlito Abutin, her common-law husband, was able to escape through the back door.

Confiscated from their possession were 23 pieces of plastic sachet containing shabu worth about P46,000, assorted drug paraphernalia and marked money used as evidence.

Two days after, Emelo went to Madrideo's office and openly offered bribe money for Subay's release.

"I was shocked with what he said to me. But I didn't have any second thoughts renouncing his offer. So I immediately met with my men and talked about entrapping Emelo," Madrideo told the INQUIRER.

After handing down the money, Madrideo's men arrested the lawyer who is now out on bail. They also arrested Abutin in a follow-up operation in Pasay City.

Caringal also commended Supt. Ramon Dominguez, Laguna police intelligence chief, also for entrapping Mary Rose Aquino who tried to offer him P100,000 last July 20 in exchange for her parents' freedom who were also caught with shabu.

Police also awarded Supt. Roberto Soriano, PO2 Gaspar Carandangang and PO2 Isagani Tibayan of Cavite Intelligence Division for refusing Maria Socorro Tura's offer of P40,000 to buy drug suspect Sergio Miranda's release; and SPO3 Rafael Reyes, member of the Biñan police, who returned the P37,500 cash he had found to the owners.

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 450 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

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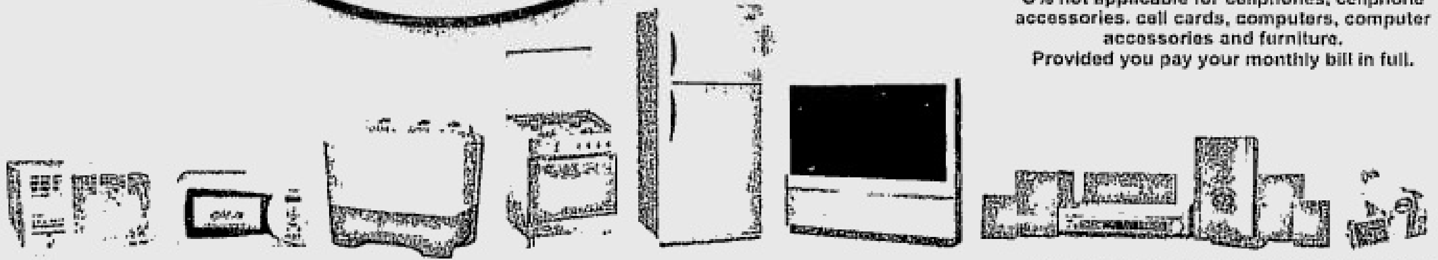

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon
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Apung Iru: Pampanga's river guardian

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

LIKE the Sumerians of Iraq, Harrapans of Pakistan, Chinese and Egyptians whose early civilizations evolved in close link with their rivers, the Kapampangans remained attached to the Rio Grande de la Pampanga.

In remarkably bigger crowds, they did not avoid the river and the fluvial procession of St. Peter—plain Apung Iru to them—even when it was past summer and sex scandals had saddled the Catholic Church.

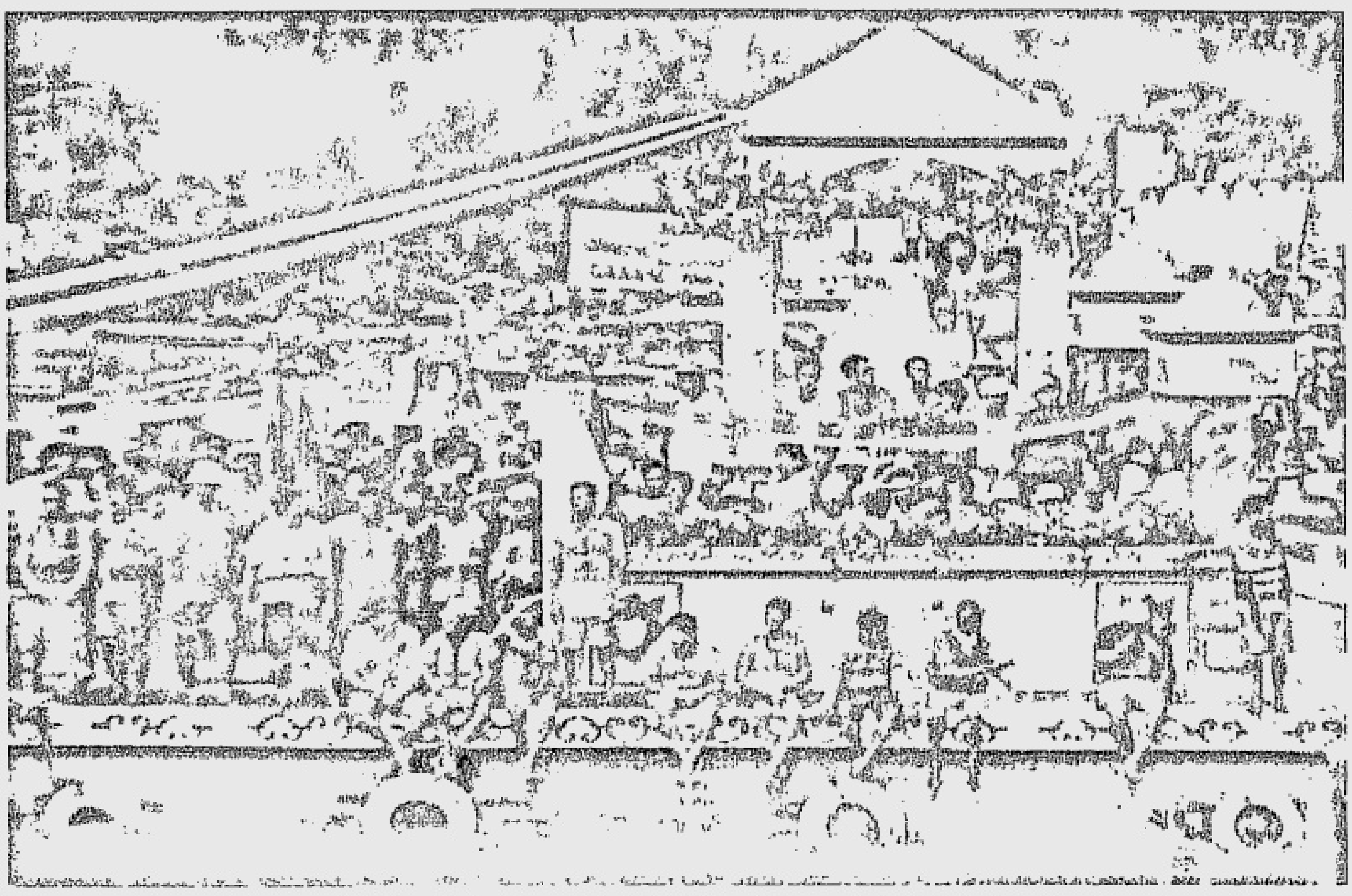
More than 5,000 devotees journeyed through boats, thousands dipped themselves on the riverbanks while thousands more stood on high grounds for the annual *libad* (fluvial procession) held recently in Apalit, one of the oldest coastal towns of Pampanga.

At the center of this elaborate, jubilant rite that historians said emerged from the combination of ancient and Spanish colonial values is Apung Iru, the first Pope of the Catholic Church.

In the coastal communities of southern Pampanga, however, they give him the commoners' title Apu (elder) and associate him more with water than with his papal symbols.

In taking to the river and relating the saint to water, historians, like Robby Tantingco of the Center for Kapampangan Studies, said the unique rite in Apalit, San Simon, Masantol, Macabebe and Candaba was the people's way of returning to their roots.

The province's oldest settlements developed along the route of the Rio Grande, the mother of 30 rivers in Northern and Central Luzon. Thus, the name of the province and its people originated from the word *pampang* (riverbanks), Tantingco noted.


IN the coastal towns of Pampanga, St. Peter, the first Pope of the Catholic Church, is associated with the life-giving element water. On his feast day in June, devotees hold a fluvial parade along the Pampanga River where ancient communities began. INFOMAX

As they gravitate to Apung Iru and transform him as the guardian of the river, devotees—many of them farmers and fishers—lay out a whole-day religious pageantry on water and on land.

Everything begins in Barangay Capalangan where the saint's life-size statue is kept in the ancestral home of the Arnedo and Gonzales clans.

Borne on the shoulder of men belonging to the Knights of St. Peter, the saint is seated on a throne and carried around the village by noon.

The image's gold-plated crown was burned in a fire in July last year, but the statue was not damaged.

River journey

Residents filled the streets as ear-splitting noises from pyrotechnics announced the start of the river journey.

Devotees steered their boats back and forth from the Sulipan Bridge up to the boundary of San Simon, which is some 7 km. On their boats, they spent the time dancing and clapping.

Descending on the riverbanks of Barangay Gatbunga in Calumpit, Bulacan, the male bearers of St. Peter transferred him to a *pituya*, an old boat made of thick, moss-covered wooden planks.

Accompanied by band music and with its own convoy of devotees on boats, the *pituya* cruised toward a waiting pagoda bedecked with generous blooms of white and yellow blooms. By this time, all boats formed a convoy behind the pagoda to ready for the slow cruise.

The excitement rose when the Knights steered the *pituya* close to the pagoda and began the difficult task of transferring Apung Iru to the pagoda.

While everyone waited in deep breath, dozens of Knights jumped into the waters, ensuring that the statue would not submerge.

With the image successfully transferred, the residents danced to the loud beating of the drums and shouted "Viva Apung Iru!"

The *libad* took almost five hours, cruising slow so the devotees on the water and on land along the coast could catch a glimpse of the saint and pray, dance and wave to him their garlands of guava leaves.

Miraculous

Beckoning his miraculous powers, youngsters, mothers and fathers with children on their shoulders and even old men and women swam on the banks, splashing themselves with water from the route that St. Peter had passed.

Many were seen rubbing their bodies with water.

Along the route, food, candies, bread, eggs, fruits and drinks were thrown to those who joined the *libad*.

Nobody could say when the water ritual actually began, according to Renato Espinosa. "*Akagisnan me namu ini* (The rite was already existing when we were born)," Espinosa recalled.

At 68, he steered the ropes tied to a tugboat. A retired employee of the Pampanga River Control System, Apong Rene, as Espinosa is called, considered that task his *panata* (devotion).

According to him, the image belongs to the clan of the late Gov. Macario Arnedo, the first elected governor of Pampanga from 1904 up to 1912.

"Back in the olden days, our elders said that fish leaped out of the water whenever the statue was borne in the river," Espinosa recalled.

Back then, there were no motorboats and farmers and fishermen simply pulled or pushed the *pituya* that carried the image.

Espinosa said the fluvial parade and its accompanying *limbun* (procession on land) always sought divine intercession for two blessings: good harvest and good health for the residents.

The fluvial rite also embodies the Kapampangans' ancient belief in the power and gifts of the water. Originally river dwellers, they still carry their beginnings by retaining the old name Pampang.

The water rite also always falls on Bayung Danum (New Water), the New Year in the ancient Kapampangan calendar. In old riverine towns, like Macabebe, Apalit and Candaba, historians said that time of the year ushered in the rains and the planting season.

Ifugao folk curb 'moma' spitting

By Ben Moses Ebreo
Lagawe, Ifugao

IFUGAO is not Singapore, but the provincial government is using a firm hand to stop indiscriminate spitting of *moma* (betel nut) juice in public areas.

Last month, the provincial board approved an ordinance that would penalize the chewing and spitting of *moma* in public areas and government offices. The measure, according to its sponsor Board Member Rufino Guinid, was aimed at promoting health and sanitation.

"The chewing of *moma* is part of the culture of the Ifugao which is passed on by their ancestors. However, the indiscriminate and irresponsible chewing and spitting of *moma* spittle litters the environment," Guinid said.

Vice Gov. Bella Takinan said young and old Ifugao should be educated on the proper practice of chewing *moma*.

"Even our roads are already stained by the red *moma* juice," she said.

"This ordinance for instance will teach us to bring a can where *moma* juice can be spit out (whenever we go to places where spitting is prohibited). The ordinance will also order the establishment of spitting cans in strategic places. Based on our public hearings, many liked the idea," Takinan said.

Under the ordinance, violators will be fined P30 for the first offense, P100 for the second offense, and P300 for third and subsequent offenses.

Ifugao native Alberto Bumulo Sr., former mayor of Kasibu, Nueva Vizcaya, said he knows of many Ifugao who chew *moma* responsibly.

"They bring cans where they can spit while chewing moma. It (chewing *moma*) is also addictive," he said.

He said the Ifugao government's measure would give the people a distinction of a well-disciplined and health conscious tribe.

Bumulo said *moma* chewing was a social practice aimed at strengthening relationships and camaraderie.

"If the Ilocanos offer their guests and visitors coffee, the Ifugao share *moma* instead," Bumulo said.

Sagada's gentle warriors, marvelous stoneware

By Elizabeth Lolarga
Contributor

SOMETIMES one has to put 329 kilometers between one's city-worn eyes and the freshness that Baguio City can offer so the truly art-starved can feel fully satiated.

Such is the impact of the joint exhibit of photographer Tommy Hafalla and potter Lope Bosaing called "Sagada Traditions," which is ongoing until Sept. 7 at The Sanctuary Gallery at the Maryknoll compound in Baguio.

The two men have managed to stay afloat and above the politics that has marred the art scene, and retained the purity of their vision and the diligent exercise of their craft.

A former Thirteen Artists awardee, Hafalla, 46, has consistently documented the rituals of the highlands, even in a remote (especially during the monsoon season, if one takes the hazardous Halsema Highway) Mt. Province town nestled in a small valley 5,000 feet above sea level.

His 20 black-and-white photographs concentrate on aspects of the *begnas* that in the past was a ritual in preparation for a tribal war.

Today, according to curator Erlyn Ruth Alcantara's notes, it is held for the community's welfare, with emphasis on protection against disease and pestilence, for a good harvest and for abundant springs to irrigate the rice fields.

The *begnas* that Hafalla covered in March was sponsored by the Malingeb *dap-ay* (council of elders), and he displayed an initial set of images at the Yogurt House in Sagada. They were not for sale because, he explained, they were his "gifts to the community."

He added that the original meaning of *panagbenga*, which Baguio has appropriated to call its annual flower festival, is the first break in the rice stalk after it becomes pregnant. "That's the real meaning," he disclosed. "It refers to that stage when the grain is about to emerge. The term is focused on rice, not on flowers."

'Begnas' month

March is *begnas* month because "it's the best time to build a house, a traditional hut. It's also the time when someone is assigned to mount a scarecrow so the birds or the rats do not eat the grain. This assignment is carried out at midnight when the community is unaware of it. If the environment is noisy or someone is talking, the ritual has no effect. The result is infestation by rats and birds."

"SOS-UWA": Sagada elders and the next generation huddle in a community prayer. TOMMY HAFALLA

One of his striking photographs is "Balbeg," which shows a man bent on staking a spear into the ground to set the boundary.

The farmer's left leg is wounded from an accident, but he nevertheless fulfills the task required of him. The women in the distance are shown lining up, headed toward the host *dap-ay*, bringing cooked food, rice cakes, tobacco leaves, rice wine or whatever they can give as tambo or social obligation.

In "Sos-uwa," Hafalla moved up close to catch the elders and other representatives of the *dap-ay* praying for a productive agricultural cycle.

If there is a preponderance of young faces, it is because the next generation of men is being taught the rituals so these would not vanish.

Hafalla himself has been an adopted son of the Akikis *dap-ay* since 1986 in recognition of his work and his generous sharing of photos, his way of making known to the generation after their unique cultural heritage.

He said the last had become his "personal mission. I make it a point to give people copies of the pictures I take. They appreciate that I deliver my promise unlike other photographers who just shoot and shoot and never send copies back."

Former rebel

Bosaing, 39, born and raised in Sagada, had to lay to rest his youthful ambition of becoming a lawyer after earning his undergraduate degree in political science at the Baguio Colleges Foundation.

His education was interrupted when he went underground and joined the New People's Army. He gave three years to the movement. When he was caught, he was imprisoned for a month, then temporarily freed because his wife, Julia Dogyawi, was scheduled to give birth to their first baby, a daughter named Am-aw after the paternal grandmother.

During the time he ranged the Cordillera as an NPA regular, he saw the pottery tradition alive in most villages, but the products were cooked in low fire like the ones in Vigan City.

He appreciated the "good clay" of the Cordillera and thought that it would be a good source of livelihood for him after he graduated and returned to Sagada.

An English fellow then taught pottery there. Bosaing also trained under Archie Stapleton, an American who grew up in Sagada and founded the town's pottery training center, which is housed in a building owned by Mayor Thomas Killip. The center is 2 km from the town center, on the road leading up to Besao.

Bosaing is practical enough to see that pottery is more of a hobby than a job. He is also a meat vendor and *sari-sari* store owner. Still he tries to go to the pottery center every day, "to release tension when I'm tired of tending the store. The physical act involved in pottery is enjoyable, healthwise."

GMA condemns Jakarta bombing a terrorist act

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday condemned as a terrorist act the deadly bombing of an American-owned luxury hotel in Jakarta that killed at least 13 people and wounded nearly 150 others.

"This validates our assertion that terrorism is transnational in character. It can hit at any part of the world and we should always be on the alert for terrorist activities," presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

Bunye said Ms Macapagal planned to get in touch with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri to express her condolonces.

Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople said the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta had informed him there were no Filipinos among the casualties in the blast.

"The Philippines condemns this dastardly attack and shares with the brave people and government of Indonesia their fervent hope that the terrorists responsible for this heinous act are brought to justice," Ople said in a statement.

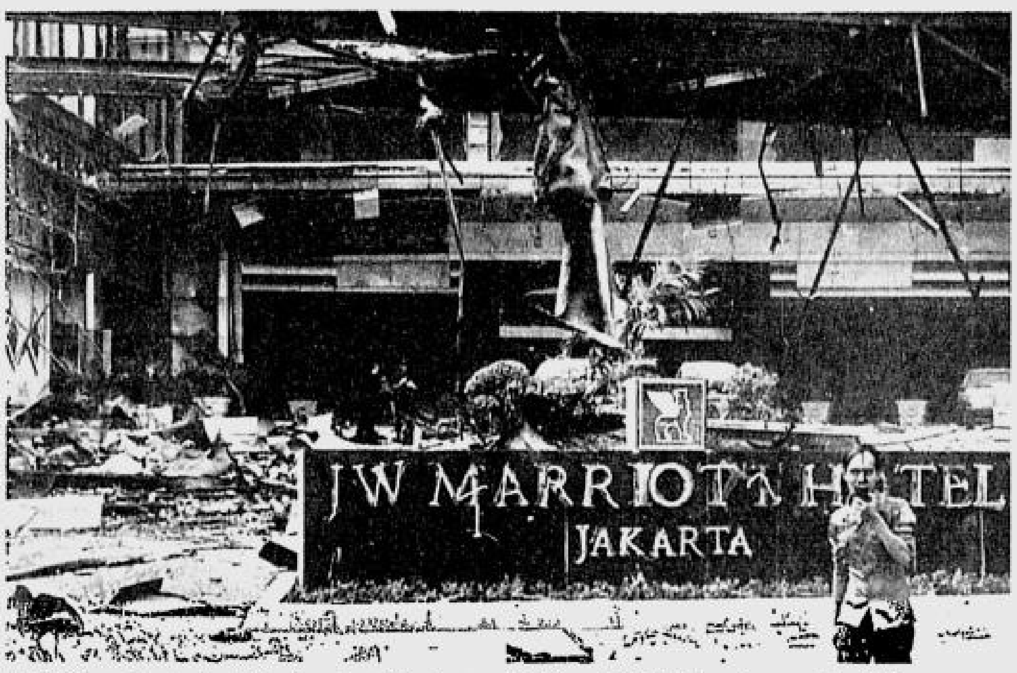
He said that those behind the bombing were "sadly mistaken if they think that such acts will weaken the common resolve of the nations to fight terror."

Ople said Indonesia could continue to expect full support and cooperation from the Philippines. "Nothing will stop us in our common search for justice and our fight against terror."

Indonesian police said the bombing was a "terrorist attack," but said it was too early to say if it was the handiwork of the Southeast Asian terror group Jemaah Islamiya.

Bunye said the Philippine National Police was continuing to hunt down Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, a confessed Indonesian JI member who escaped from the PNP headquarters in Camp Crame last month.

Al-Ghozi has admitted to helping plan deadly bomb attacks on a Light Rail Transit station in Metro Manila and several facilities that left over 20 dead in 2000. He was already serving a 17-year sentence for explosives possession at the time of his escape. *AFP*



A CAR bomb wrecked the facade of the luxury JW Marriott Hotel and several buildings nearby in Jakarta's main business district on Tuesday. AFP

US hotel in Jakarta bombed

From page A1

An Associated Press photographer, who was at the scene minutes after the blast, saw three badly burned bodies lying in the wreckage of a car outside the badly damaged hotel and the adjacent Plaza Mutiara office building.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing. But since last year's blasts in Bali, which killed 202 people, authorities have warned that more attacks were likely in Indonesia—possibly by Jemaah Islamiya, the Southeast Asian terror group linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Jemaah Islamiya's alleged leader, Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, is facing trial for treason over a series of bombings in 2000. About three dozen alleged Jemaah Islamiya members are also accused in the Bali blasts and could be executed if convicted.

Tuesday's bomb rocked the capital just two days before the first verdict is expected in a series of trials in Bali.

The Indonesian Red Cross put the death toll at 13, adding that 149 were wounded.

Hans Winkelmolen, a Dutch national and president of PT Rabobank Duta Indonesia, was among the dead, according to a company spokesperson. The bank is majority-owned by Rabobank of the Netherlands.

A US diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said two Americans were wounded in the explosion.

Several hospitals said they had admitted a total of 103 people with various injuries.

Ten employees of New Zealand's dairy company Fonterra were among those injured in the blast, a spokesperson said in Wellington. It was not immediately clear whether they were Indonesians or New Zealanders.

Chasis examined

Gen. Da'i Bachtiar said officials suspected the explosives had been placed in an Indonesian-made Kijang van, adding that its chasis was being examined.

He said that body parts had been found near the wrecked vehicle, saying police were investigating whether they were those of bystanders or the suspected perpetrator.

Defense Minister Matori Abdul Djalil said it was the work of "terrorists," but declined to specify who was responsible.

Jakarta Gov. Sutiyoso, who like many Indonesians uses a single name, said it was "very likely" carried out by a suicide attacker.

The blast at the hotel, which is part of the Bethesda, Maryland-based chain, is sure to hurt Indonesia's efforts to attract back tourists and foreign investors following the Bali carnage.

Australia, which lost 88 people in the Bali blasts, denounced Tuesday's bombing as "a brutal terrorist attack" and warned its citizens to steer clear of central Jakarta.

The rupiah, Indonesia's currency, fell to 8,625 to the US dollar, compared to Monday's close of 8,490. The Jakarta stock exchange closed 3.1 percent lower following news of the blast.

Mellanie Solagratia, a spokesperson for the hotel, said most of the damage appeared to have occurred in the basement and on the second floor. She said the 330-room hotel was 77 percent occupied as of Tuesday.

"I heard a big bang and I tried to get out of the building as quickly as possible," said Astoni, a hotel employee, as he picked bits of glass from his uniform. "The smoke was getting into my lungs."

Nearby embassies

The hotel's lobby plate glass windows were shattered, as were some upper-floor windows. The lobby was badly damaged, with chairs and tables strewn about. Several cars smoldered outside.

Inside a ground-floor restaurant of an adjacent building, half-eaten pasta dishes sat on tables covered in broken plates and glass.

Ceiling and wall panels were scattered in the street outside the lobby of the hotel, exposing the bare concrete pillars. The building appeared to be structurally intact.

The adjacent Rajawali building houses the embassies of Norway, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. None of the staff were injured, officials said.

"In the Swedish Embassy, there was shattered glass, and one of the inner ceilings caved in," vice consul Viveca Lofberg said.

Another office worker named Iin said some of the casualties were security guards who were stationed in front of the Marriott and adjacent office buildings.

"I thought a plane must have hit the building," he said.

Jakarta has seen a number of bombings in recent years as Indonesia grapples with a myriad of security problems and political turmoil.

The explosion came four days after President Megawati Sukarnoputri vowed to destroy the terrorist networks responsible for a series of bombings across the world's largest Muslim nation, saying the "domestic branch of the international terrorism movement is a terrifying threat."

In a State of the Nation Address, she vowed to "dismantle the terrorist network to its roots."

On Thursday, a court in Bali was scheduled to deliver its verdict in the trial of Amrozi bin Nurhasyim, who is accused of planning and carrying out the attacks in Bali with other alleged members of Jemaah Islamiya. *AP*

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MILF confirms death of Salamat on July 13

From page A1

MILF considers itself a revolutionary force, and we cannot expect it to [exercise] normal behavior toward the government whom it is fighting," Ermita said. "There are some things that you must not divulge too much or too soon in a negotiation."

Last words

Jaafar said Salamat's last words were for his men "to continue the struggle and to sacrifice to achieve the objective of genuine self-determination."

"The chairman also wanted us to strengthen the spirit of brotherhood in the MILF," Jaafar said, adding that they would not fail their lost leader.

Abhoud Syed Lingga, director of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, said that while the entire MILF and its unarmed followers and sympathizers mourned Salamat's passing, his ideas and principles would live forever in their hearts.

"Our objective is to liberate our people and to regain the usurped freedom and self-determination of our people," Lingga, quoting an excerpt from Salamat's favorite lines. "Perhaps we will die, but our ideas will never die."

Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao and former chief government peace negotiator, said the MILF and the Moro people suffered a big loss with the death of Salamat.

Even Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, who had blamed the MILF for the bombings in that city in March and April, described Salamat as "a good man, a good leader."

"But I don't think the peace talks will stop just because a great leader died," he said.

Still, Duterte said, the charges of murder and frustrated murder filed against MILF officials, Salamat included, would not be dropped.

Buying bullets

Years before the young officers who staged the July 27 mutiny in Makati exposed the alleged sale by military officials of firearms and ammunition to rebel groups, Salamat had already made such a claim.

In an interview with the INQUIRER in April 2000, Salamat said the MILF bought its bullets and firearms from the Armed Forces.

"If the AFP merely wants to [fight us], they should not sell their bullets to the MILF," he said.

Weeks after that interview, the Estrada administration launched its all-out war against the MILF, which led to the fall of Camp Abubakar in Matanog, Maguindanao.

It was in Camp Abubakar where Salamat granted interviews and received visitors like former Tarlac Rep. Margarita Cojuangco and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

But when it fell to government hands, Salamat became elusive to the media. He reportedly established a home base in Buliok, Pagalungan, Maguindanao, that the Army captured in February.

Salamat's last statement to the media was aired over a radio station in Cotabato City in February, during which he called on every armed Muslim to fight the government.

"All Muslims with firearms must fight till death," he said in the tape-recorded message.

The dream

Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadato said Salamat's dream was to change the character and mindset of the Moro people.

"All he wanted was to see the Bangsamoro living the Islamic way of life. All he wanted was to see his people free—from poverty, ignorance and manipulation of the wealthy and intellectual elite," Mangudadato said.

But Salamat did not want all the credit.

In the April 2000 interview with the INQUIRER, he said: "I would like to be remembered as an innocent civilian forced to fight to defend my people, that's all.

"As a matter of fact, I am maintaining I am still a civilian. I'm not a fighter... But I have to organize and defend my people. I do not want to kill anybody, but I also don't want people to kill any of my people..."

With honors

Born on July 7, 1942, in Barangay Kudal, Pagalungan, Salamat was a product of the town's public school. He finished his elementary and secondary education in 1954 and 1958, both with honors.

His first teacher was his mother.

In 1959, he went to Cairo. He entered the Al-Azhar University and completed his bachelor's degree in philosophy in 1967. He acquired a master's degree in the same school in 1969.

He returned to the Philippines that year and served as provincial librarian of the then undivided Cotabato.

He married Zenaida Biston of Glan, Sarangani province, with whom he had five children.

But aside from raising a family, Salamat also joined then Prof. Nur Misuari in forming the Moro National Liberation Front.

But as MNLF vice chair, Salamat had disagreements with Misuari particularly over ideological and political policies.

In 1978, Salamat led a group of Maguindanaon revolutionaries in bolting Misuari's group and forming the MILF.

If Misuari was "ma-as" (elder) to his followers, Salamat was "Ustadz" (religious man).

As a Muslim scholar and theologian, Salamat espoused the Islamic way of life as the basis of existence.

"I called him Chairman. The others called him Ustadz," Jaafar said.

Death of a symbol

Muslim leaders in Manila mourned the death of the "symbol of the Bangsamoro struggle."

"Salamat's death is a big loss to the struggling Bangsamoro people," said former Urban Poor Commissioner Norhata Alonto, now director of the ARMM Social Fund. "His steadfastness, perseverance and honest resolve to end the Mindanao conflict is inimitable."

Anak Mindanaw Rep. Mujiv Hataman said: "He was a consistent Muslim leader, pushing for genuine peace. "He did not use the peace process as a propaganda tool to promote himself."

"Despite his firm belief in the armed revolutionary struggle as the only solution to the Moro people's quest for genuine freedom, he showed sincerity in pursuing their goal, if possible through peaceful means by participating earnestly in the peace negotiations," said Datu Cosain Naga, spokesperson of the Moro-Christian Peoples' Alliance.

A Muslim community in Metro Manila knew of Salamat's death last week and has been in mourning since then.

Text messages

Datu Amerol Gulam Ambiong, head of the Metro Manila Peace and Coordinating Council and a resident of the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila, yesterday said he was told of Salamat's death in text messages sent by his relatives in Maguindanao.

The news was subsequently relayed to other members of the community, he said, adding: "We in the Muslim community are in close contact with one another."

Ambiong also said the Islamic community in Manila had been praying for Salamat daily.

As to the peace process between the MILF and the government, Ambiong said he was optimistic that it would proceed.

"There will be someone who will replace him. I believe the talks will continue," Ambiong said. *Reports from Anthony S. Allada, Rosa-May V. de Guzman, Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Senase, Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Leila B. Salaverria and Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Samira Gutoc, contributor*

Murad voted . . .

From page A1

In 1980, he joined other disgruntled leaders of the MNLF, including Salamat, its then vice chair for foreign affairs, in forming the MILF.

Jaafar said MILF chief of staff Abu Hidad had been named to Murad's old post, and a certain Azzidique as Hidad's replacement.

The other positions in the MILF central committee remain the same, he said.

Jaafar also said that even with the change in MILF leadership, nothing would change insofar as its peace process with the government was concerned.

Lawyer Zacaria Candao, who had helped found the MILF, said that Murad had sufficient training and exposure to continue the struggle of the secessionist group and that Murad was Salamat's "logical successor."

"I don't foresee any problem in the thrust of the peace process," added Candao, a former governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Jesus Dureza, President Macapagal-Arroyo's assistant for Mindanao and former chief government peace negotiator, said he believed that there would be continuity in the peace process given the continuity in the MILF as indicated by Murad's immediate assumption of the top post.

A polished orator, Murad is usually clad in combat fatigues but is viewed as more of a moderate than Salamat.

Flexible

"He is the kind of man who can balance the hardliners and the moderates. He's a man of flexibility," Reuters quoted MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu as saying in a phone interview.

In Manila, Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Ms Macapagal's adviser on the peace process and chief government negotiator with the MILF, said prospects for peace remained bright, especially with Murad as chair.

"He can decide for and in behalf of the MILF," he said of Murad, whom he described as "moderate and easy to deal with."

Ermita said it was Murad whom the government peace panel had been negotiating with "since Day One."

"I think [his assumption of the MILF leadership] would augur well [for the peace process] because he has the confidence of the MILF central committee," Ermita said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Murad was a "worthy successor" of Salamat.

"I have known Murad personally as a moderate influence over the activities of the MILF, and as a matter of fact, the very circumstance that he is now in Kuala Lumpur awaiting our panel for the resumption of the negotiations is a good sign that he wants to establish a just and lasting peace in Mindanao," Pimentel said. "We really wish him well."

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said he had talked with some of Murad's friends, and "they all seem to be confident about the responsibility and the moderation of the new leader."

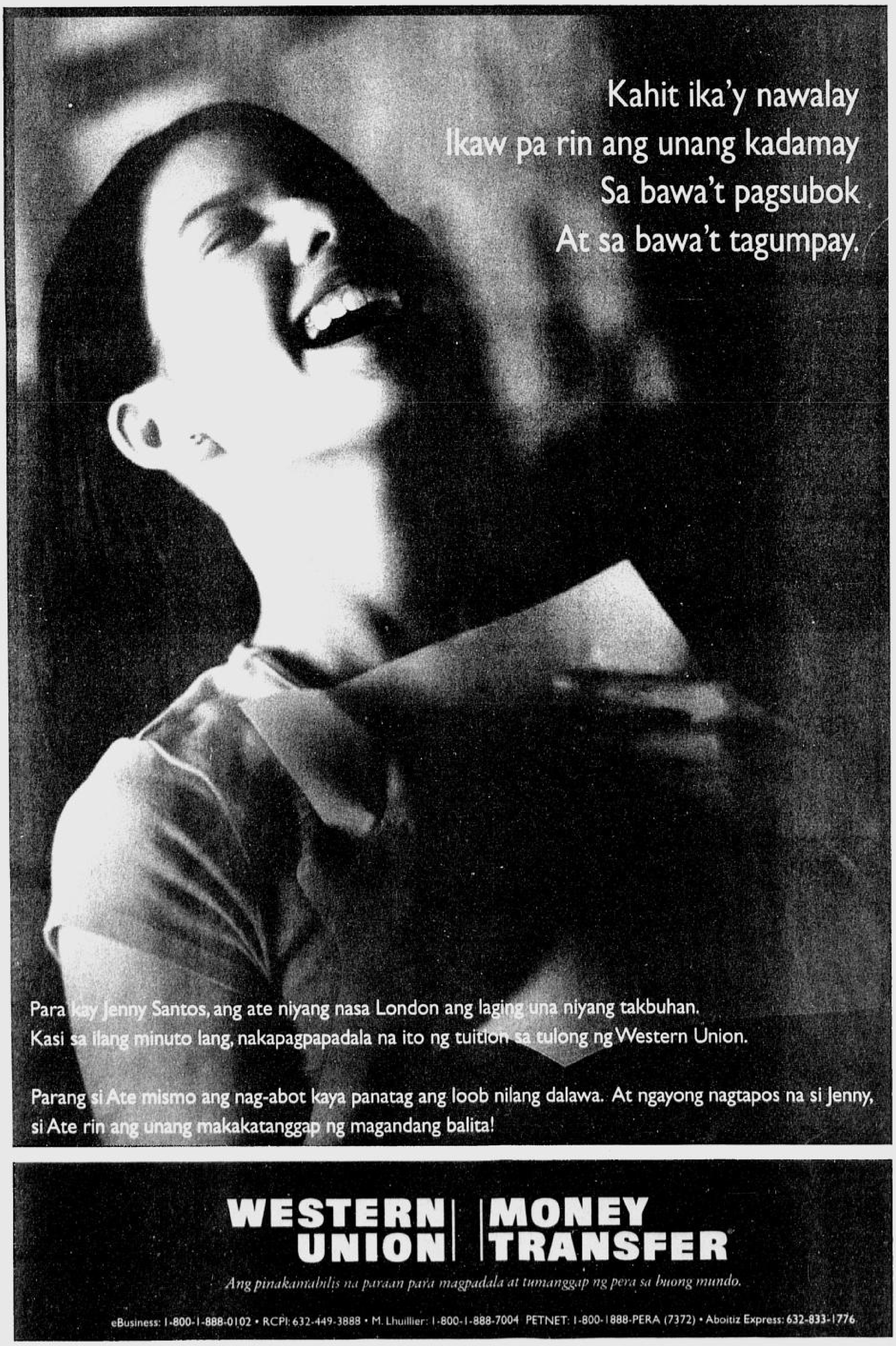
"I understand that is one of the important factors why the whole MILF central committee voted for him," Magsaysay said.

The MILF said it remained committed to the peaceful settlement of the Mindanao problem even with Salamat's death.

On Monday, its representatives attended the 10th meeting of the joint Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) held in Cotabato.

The meeting was one of the steps aimed at normalizing the situation on the ground, which will in turn pave the way for the resumption of the peace talks, said Musib Buat, MILF panel spokesperson and technical committee chair.

At the opening of the meeting, AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia announced that AFP Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Narciso Abaya had ordered all military commanders in Mindanao to strictly implement the ceasefire. *Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, Charlie C. Señase, Aquiles Z. Zonio, Anthony S. Allada, Rosa-May V. de Guzman, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christine O. Avendaño in Manila*



Para kay Jenny Santos, ang ate niyang nasa London ang laging una niyang takbuhan. Kasi sa ilang minuto lang, nakapagpapadala na ito ng tuition sa tulong ng Western Union.

Parang si Ate mismo ang nag-abot kaya panatag ang loob nilang dalawa. At ngayong nagtapos na si Jenny, si Ate rin ang unang makakatanggap ng magandang balita!

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Gringo to surface if state of rebellion lifted

From page A1

Malacañang and the Senate are urging Honasan to surface, assuring him of due process.

Saying that the battle was now between evidence and conjecture, Ms Macapagal called on Honasan to "welcome the charges against him as an opportunity to prove his claimed innocence."

In a statement, Ms Macapagal said "due process shall be faithfully observed" in the prosecution of the junior military officers and enlisted personnel as well as the civilian backers of the failed mutiny.

"Our only aim is to help in bringing forth the truth in clear light," she said. "There should be no more reason for making this case a media spectacle."

In consenting to the Senate's own inquiry into the mutiny, Ms Macapagal said two parallel inquiries could be conducted—one focusing on prospective legislation and another on policy matters.

Fight it out in 2 fora

"It will also allow Senator Honasan two fora in which to air his side, the forum of his peers and the forum of the bench. I am for giving the people the full, unadulterated and unabridged story about this notorious misadventure and I welcome all responsible efforts toward this end," she said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said it would be best for Honasan, whom he last talked to last week, to file his counter affidavit and "fight it out in our judicial system."

"(I)t is to the best interest of the country and of Senator Honasan as well to come out and submit his counter-affidavit, so that the government would have no reason to decide the case on the basis of (Department of Interior and Local Government) evidence," Drilon said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., said "if he goes underground, it would be more difficult for him and for us here as we want to see justice is delivered and due process is given him."

"He's a senator of the Philippines, duly reelected and he has his work to do here so I would suggest to him as a friend that he join us and get back to working for legislative matters," Magsaysay added.

Answer charges

Honasan can answer the charges through his lawyers, according to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. "But at one point, if the case is really brought before the court, he will have to appear before the courts," Pimentel told reporters.

After receiving evidence from both the government and the suspect, prosecutors would rule on whether to file charges in court.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said Honasan had no reason to go into hiding because there was an ongoing investigation of his case.

The filing of charges against Honasan would be an opportunity for him to "present his side and confront his accusers," according to Sen. Robert Barbers.

For his part, Senate Minority Leader Sen. Vicente Sotto III said that he had not spoken to Honasan since Friday night but that he was certain that the latter was preparing to reply to the charges against him with the help of his lawyers.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said Honasan should answer the charges as he noted that other presidential aspirants were also facing charges against them.

"But whether or not it is political harassment would be dependent on the cases and evidence of the government," Biazon said.

In the House of Representatives, opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo City said Honasan should not make himself scarce in public as this always raised suspicion that he was in hiding.

"Flight is an indication of guilt, as they say in law. But it's a rebuttal presumption. It's not a conclusive presumption," Suplico said. *Reports from TJ Burgonio, Christine O. Avendaño, Juliet Labog-Javellana, and Cynthia D. Balana*

'Armpit test' may spell jail or freedom for Honasan

From page A1

ernment's claim that Honasan led the junior officers, who staged the July 27 mutiny, in a "blood compact" to seal their plot to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo, a police official said.

In the Senate, the chair of the committee on national defense and security also said that some of the participants to the mutiny could be pinpointed if they had the same scar.

After consulting with the Senate resident doctor, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said "linear scars can still be visible" even two months after the blood compact.

Asked if he planned to ask mutiny leaders to show their upper arms when they testify before the Senate on Friday, Magsaysay said he would not be present in the hearing but might ask Sen. Robert Barbers to make the suggestion.

"If they want to show their underarms, if they are brave enough to participate in a blood compact and are equally man enough to show their arms," Magsaysay said.

Police are now looking for a flag and a copy of a prayer for Honasan's National Recovery Program (NRP) stained by the blood of those who took part in the blood compact.

If any of the stains matched with Honasan's blood type, the result would help convict the senator of coup d'état charges, Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said.

The test would be done by either the PNP Crime Laboratory or the National Bureau of Investigation or even by the NBI's counterpart in the United States, the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Knife

"The results would show that he indeed took part in the blood compact," Matillano told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

The blood compact took place during a late-night meeting on June 4 between Honasan and the junior military officers who eventually staged the mutiny, according to the sworn statement of Maj. Perfecto Ragil, the government's star witness against Honasan.

So far, police have in their possession only a knife recovered during a raid on the house of Ramon Cardenas, deputy executive secretary during the Estrada administration, in Dasmariñas Village in Makati.

Matillano could not tell if this was the same knife Honasan and the mutineers used to cut "I" marks just below their left armpits.

Based on Ragil's account of the dinner, each soldier, led by Honasan, pressed their right thumbs on the cut and imprinted the blood on a copy of the NRP prayer that the senator had read.

An NRP flag was also placed against each of the cuts, the witness claimed. The lower portion of the flag was white and the mutineers initially planned to color it red with their own blood, a ranking government investigator told the INQUIRER.

But the senator, who was also responsible for several coup attempts against the Aquino administration, remains missing.

Matillano said he could not arrest Honasan, his "mistah" (classmate) at the Philippine Military Academy Class 1971, pending the issuance of a warrant.

"We're just monitoring his movements so we'll know where to find him in case an arrest warrant has been issued," he said.

Surprise witnesses

To beef up the government's case against Honasan, Matillano said the CIDG would present more "surprise" witnesses, including members of the senator's Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc.

The CIDG, he said, was also building up its case against some wealthy families who could have helped finance the mutiny.

Matillano refused to identify any of the families and was careful at implicating former President Joseph Estrada in the failed power grab.

"So far, there are still no evidence directly linking Estrada to the mutiny," he said.

What the government has for now are pieces of circumstantial evidence culled from the raids on the house of Cardenas and Laarni Enriquez, Estrada's mistress.

Senate hearing Friday

Sitting as a committee of the whole, the Senate is set to resume its hearing on Friday after senators decided to proceed and ask security and military officials to present the mutiny leaders before the chamber.

Officials did not present the mutiny leaders in both the Senate and House of Representatives hearings last week, citing "grave security considerations."

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez has committed to present the mutiny leaders to the Senate but asked that the chamber's hearing be moved to Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City, where the leaders are detained.

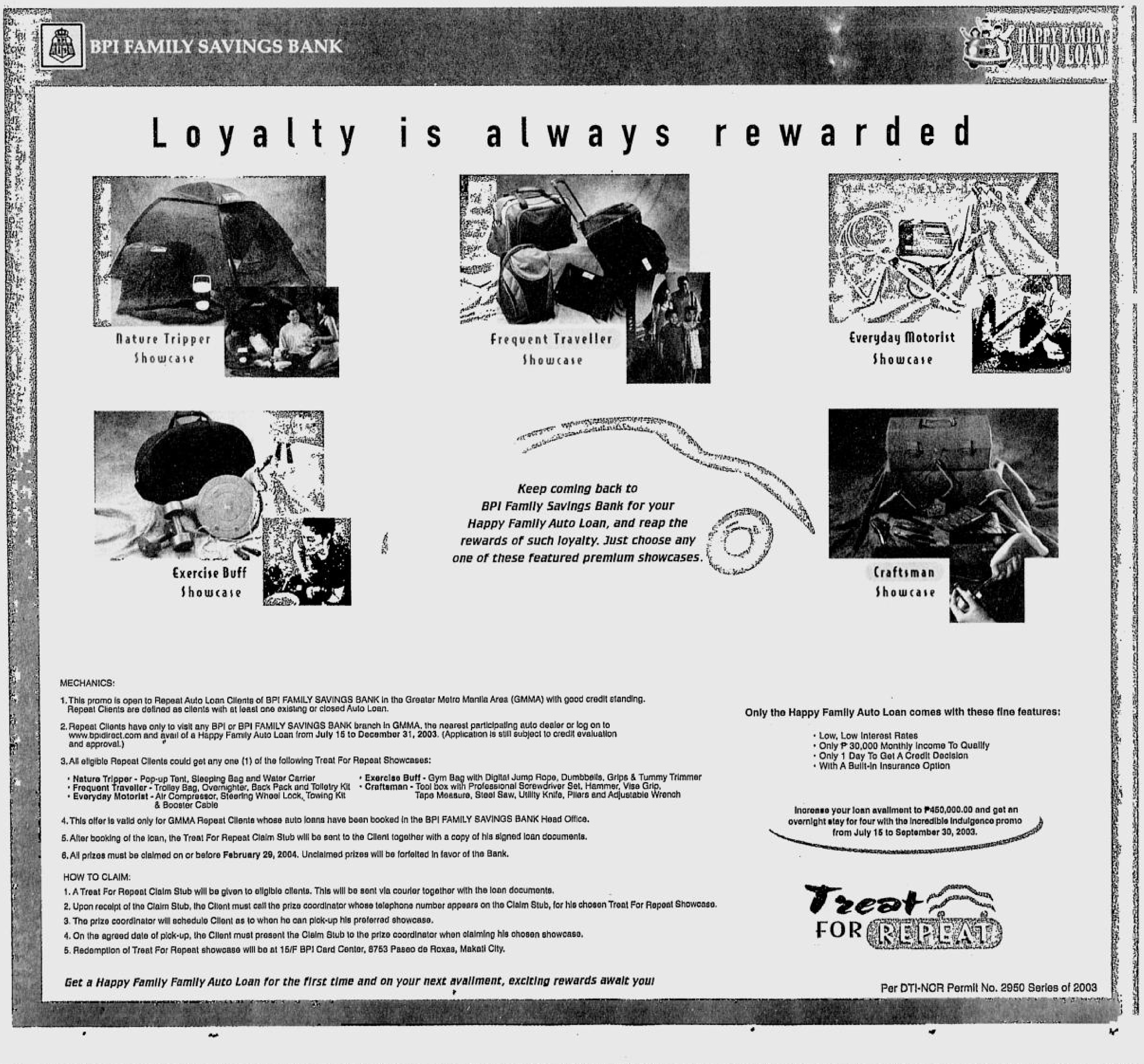
Senate President Franklin Drilon said he has reinvited to the hearing eight leaders of the Magdalo, a group of soldiers who seized the Oakwood Premiere luxury apartments on July 27.

In a letter to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya, Drilon "commanded and required" him to bring Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes IV, Eugene Louie Gonzales and James Layug, Captains Garry Alejano, Milo Maestrecampo, Gerardo Gambala and Fermin Mabolo, and Maj. Antonio Vilamin to the hearing.

The senators have issued two separate resolutions condemning the failed power grab.

A group of 12 senators condemned "in the strongest possible terms the method resorted to" by the soldiers to "ventilate their dissatisfaction and sentiments on alleged corruption and irregularities" in the military, calling their action only a mutiny.

However, another resolution by seven senators, including two who signed the first, condemned "in the highest order" what they directly called "an attempt to overthrow" the government through a coup d'etat.



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Guardians to close ranks in crackdown

From page A1

Guardians (I hope they won't put the heat on all Guardian members)," he said.

"We'll protect our members," he added.

Some members, including those who "did not even move" during the July 27 mutiny, are now complaining that they are also under police surveillance, he said. "We might be stirring a hornet's nest."

A politician once known as the godfather of RAM, ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, said he saw a parallel between Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Marcos-era Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fabian Ver: the men under them held them in disgust. For that reason, he asked Reyes to resign. *(Story on Page A2.)*

Enrile asked Reyes to step down and let Abaya take his post, since the AFP Chief of Staff enjoys the respect and loyalty of the military. Abaya is a "very professional soldier," he said.

The House committee on national defense, however, was in no mood to humor Abaya, who failed to attend yesterday's hearing on the Oakwood mutiny.

Citing national security concerns, Abaya sent Maj. Gen. Pedro Cabuay, the AFP deputy chief for intelligence, to speak on his behalf.

His absence irked most committee members present, prompting them to ask committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay to admonish the AFP Chief of Staff.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the state of rebellion would be lifted solely on the basis of the national security situation rather than the loud clamor of businessmen and militant groups.

In a statement, the President said: "We will base our decision on a comprehensive view of the national security horizon, not upon the complaints of the business community or petitions raised before the courts."

The President said the investigation was now in its "advanced stage" and that the authorities would soon name all those who participated in the July 27 mutiny.

"As the conspiracy is completely exposed and the judicial processes take their course, the state of rebellion would no longer be necessary and will soon be lifted," the President.

Guardians factions

Five of the persons charged with coup d'état along with Sen. Gregorio Honasan were identified as members of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc., one of at least nine Guardians factions.

PGBI is headed by Honasan, but "the PGBI is not solely controlled by Greg Honasan," Maligalig insisted.

He said the organization itself was not involved in any coup plot. "*May mga nagamit* (Some members were used)," he admitted.

On the day of the mutiny, Maligalig disclosed, Honasan asked some PGBI leaders to mobilize a rally for that weekend. The rallyists were dispersed before they reached the mutineers at the Oakwood Hotel in Makati.

Maligalig said some of the PGBI leaders present at the meeting informed him about the planned mobilization. According to Maligalig, he and others advised these leaders not to proceed.

The RAM, a group of military officers who launched several coup attempts against the Aquino administration, is closely identified with the Guardians.

One PGBI official, retired Col. George Duldulao dismissed accusations that he was involved in a failed attempt to seize power from the Macapagal administration.

"I was surprised by the filing of the charges about me. I have no knowledge about that (coup)," Duldulao, chair of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood Inc.'s national secretariat, said in a phone interview. He said he had yet to receive a copy of the charge sheet.

Meanwhile, in a handwritten statement, mutiny leader Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes said his group felt betrayed when the Department of Justice charged all 321 mutineers. The agreement reached in Oakwood, he said, was except for the five leaders, everyone would be sent back to their respective units. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Cynthia Balana, TJ Burgonio, Norman Bordadora*

'95 Class goat to probe valedictorian

From page A1

of Air Philippines.

The President had earlier described Narciso as one of "the real heroes" for not joining the mutiny led by his PMA class valedictorian, Army Capt. Gerardo Orpilla Gambala, and other mistahs.

Narciso graduated class "goat" in the academy. "Goat" is the slang for a West Point cadet with the lowest academic and non-academic rank in his class. At the PMA, whose traditions have been adapted from the United States Military Academy, goats come last in the merit roll of a graduating class.

His time to shine

During his cadet days, Narciso suffered numerous instances of "touring," a punishment given to cadets whenever they commit an offense. The equivalent of a "tour" is an hour of continuous marching with a rifle, preferably under the heat of the sun.

Eight years ago, Gambala hogged the limelight when he received four major awards, including the presidential saber from then President Fidel Ramos, for topping the 241-member class during their graduation on March 5, 1995.

Now it's Narciso's turn to shine.

'Kaspog' faces Isong

Gambala, known in his class as "Kaspog" (a play on "*kasi pogi*") will have to face Narciso, nicknamed "Isong," who was described by his classmates as intelligent and eloquent, as well as a "ladies' man."

The editorial staff of the The Sword, the class yearbook, described Narciso as "friendly, especially to ladies …" His being popular with girls could have been the reason he became a member of the class committee on social graces.

Narciso, in a photograph for The Sword, posed in a PMA sweatshirt, loose pants and combat boots. His hands were tucked inside his pockets as he described himself as "cool and perspicacious."

During his military training at Fort del Pilar in Baguio City, he was popular in his class for being a "boodler," a military term for being *matakaw* (voracious).

"(He) never lets you down. He always flies high," his classmates described Narciso.

Narciso was active in sports and various organizations when he was a cadet. He was a member of pocket billiards club, basketball corps squad, The Sword staff, peer counseling group, scuba diving club, fencing corps squad, dialectic society and the PMA Hour.

He was a company commander of Silent Drill 1995 and Silent Drill Training Staff.

When the INQUIRER reached him on Monday night, Narciso was hesitant to talk about his life in the academy and his appointment in the commission.

Shakespeare

"I really don't know what I'm allowed to do and what I'm not allowed to do in the commission. I am having a meeting right now, I'm sorry," he said.

In the class year book, Narciso quoted Shakespeare for his motto: "All that glitters is not gold."

Belonging to an affluent family, Narciso studied at the De La Salle-Zobel before he joined the PMA. After graduating from the academy in 1995, he trained for two years at the Fernando Air Base in Lipa City and stayed there as flight instructor for a "very short time."

The President earlier named Capt. Rex Banjo Bumanlag as a member of the Feliciano Commission but said he had to be replaced by Narciso due to a technicality.

She said Bumanlag, "while on schooling," remained under the military payroll. "So I have to look for somebody who is not on the military payroll and fortunately the (PMA) Class of '95 nominated Captain Narciso," she told reporters in Malacañang.

Other reports, however, said Bumanlag, who works in the Department of National Defense, did not want the task because the DND was under Secretary Angelo Reyes, one of the generals accused by the mutineers of corruption and orchestrating the bombings in Davao City. Reyes has denied the allegations.

Probe role

Narciso's appointment has raised some doubts from certain quarters.

"Narciso is no use (in the investigating body). He only stayed for two years in the service, then he went to work for Philippine Airlines. I was surprised why he was placed in the commission. What does he know about the service? He is a rich kid," an Air Force pilot told the INQUIRER.

A cadet who graduates from the PMA is required to serve the Armed Forces of the Philippines for eight years. Narciso left the service four years after he graduated.

According to the source, Narciso never experienced how it was in the field since he had never been assigned in any combat and rescue missions. "Practically, he doesn't know any gripes in the service."

"He made the Air Force his stepping stone and left the service for greener pastures," another source said.

But other officers said Narciso was the right choice.

"He is the best person because he is no longer in the service," one mistah told the INQUIRER.

"He may not be a decorated officer, but definitely you can't bribe him. He can speak freely because he is no longer in the service," another officer said.

Mistahs' appeal

Other mistahs who were not involved in the mutiny have only one request to legislators investigating the July 27 incident: fair treatment.

Representatives of the class made the appeal in a statement read in yesterday's hearing of the House committee on national defense.

"Our only request is that our classmates be treated fairly and that their valid and legal concerns be addressed accordingly," said the statement read by the class secretary, Army Capt. Ruel Rombaoao.

Appearing along with Rombaoao were Army Captains Ronald Bautista, Wendel Rebong and Ewald Manay; Coast Guard Lt. Troy Cornelio: and Navy Lt. Ronaldo Unay.

They said that while some of their classmates had joined the uprising, "our class has remained steadfast in our duties and responsibilities as officers of the AFP."

"We uphold the Constitution and the Republic for which we swore allegiance," the statement said. "While we sympathize for the legitimate grievances of our classmates, [the] majority of the class did not patronize the use of force as a means of airing our concerns."

It said the class "condemns any and all forms of corruption and let this be known to the general public" and stressed that its members were "not affiliated with any political party or personality."

The Feliciano commission had its first organizational meeting yesterday at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas after three of its members—Bernas, Hernandez and Robles—took their oath of office before the President in Malacañang.

Ms Macapagal assured the commission members that their investigation would not overlap with those being conducted separately by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Civilian trial, too

Malacañang wants the military officers involved in the mutiny to face not only a military tribunal but also civilian courts. *With reports from Juliet L. Javellana, Gil Cabacungan and Carlito Pablo; and Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

PMA to warn cadets vs dangerous alumni

From page A1

Forces a system that would protect the PMA Alumni Association and its future members from "dangerous alumni members," who could manipulate junior officers into a lifestyle of military "adventurism." The term has become a euphemism for plotting against the government.

He said the strength of a united PMA alumni had been tainted by these "persuasive" PMA graduates, who target young officers commanding isolated outposts or elite military squads that have no day-to-day contact with the top brass.

He said critics had targeted the PMA curriculum for "graduating mutineers," despite the fact that some PMA alumni members, with a coup agenda, recruit the former cadets after they had graduated from the academy.

Honasan no influence

According to Adan, who's a member of PMA Class '72, Sen. Gregorio Honasan's influence in the PMA had long disappeared. Honasan belongs to PMA Class '71.

Honasan had not visited the PMA for almost five years, and had not directly influenced any of the recent batches of PMA graduates, said Dr. Joy Tio, a mathematics professor at the academy.

The senator's popularity rose in the academy after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, where he played a major role, but dropped out immediately afterward when he led mutineers in several coup attempts, Adan said.

Maj. Edgard Arevalo, PMA spokesperson and member of PMA Class '90, said Honasan's popularity in his time did not spill over to his class.

"The way to (correct the influence of alumni members) is to insulate our officers (and cadets) by providing them with more information to be able to identify people who they should guard against. When these people come and sound (off ideas that contradict established norm or which espouse an agenda contrary to government standards), they would recognize them immediately," he said.

"I am not saying (that we) isolate (them). They visit the PMA (during the annual alumni homecoming). I am saying (the AFP should provide adequate information with key phrases), which cadets should watch for. When these ideas are spoken out . . . , then they know who they're dealing with, regardless of who they are."

The PMA cadets get "the whole truth" about the real Philippine situation from a liberal press and a democratic school system, Adan said.

He said not even the members of PMA Mailag Class of '95 who staged the July 27 mutiny could complain about being put in the dark about the state of the Armed Forces.

He said academy activities put cadets in close touch with the military's budgetary crises and the corruption that plagues the institution before they are given their first command.

But because of the hype that the media had given last month's mutiny, Adan said the AFP was ready to expose the 1,009 cadets now in the PMA to "more truths" about officers who participated in past actions against the government like Honasan.

Romulo: Sorry if my remarks . . .

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the government. "Business is the engine of growth and the President believes that government and business should collaborate."

Bunye clarified that Ms Macapagal's remarks at the Manila Overseas Press Club on Thursday were not directed at businessmen in general but only to a specific individual—referring to lawyer Ricardo Romulo, chair of the Makati Business Club.

Romulo yesterday sought to put his interview last week with the ABS-CBN network—during which he made what Ms Macapagal called an "awful statement"—in perspective.

In a letter to the INQUIRER, he wrote: "I wish to put on record the transcript of my interview with (news anchor) Ces Drilon last Tuesday which has been misquoted in numerous media reports. My actual remarks were as follows: 'I must be frank. If the government thinks that with this settling (of) this crisis we can now feel totally secure and stabilized, the answer is no.'"

At the MOPC forum, Ms Macapagal criticized Romulo for his statement but without mentioning his name, adding: "What can you expect from the lawyer of Piatco?"

Romulo's law firm, one of the country's largest, represents the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the controversial contractor behind Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Romulo ended his letter with an apology. "I am sorry if my remarks annoyed the President but it (*sic*) was not meant to."

Romulo explained the context of his remarks: "My only purpose was to voice the business community's concern that these mutineers not escape the consequences of their unlawful acts.

As a member of the Davide Commission, I know only too well how important it is to punish those who violated their oath to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land."

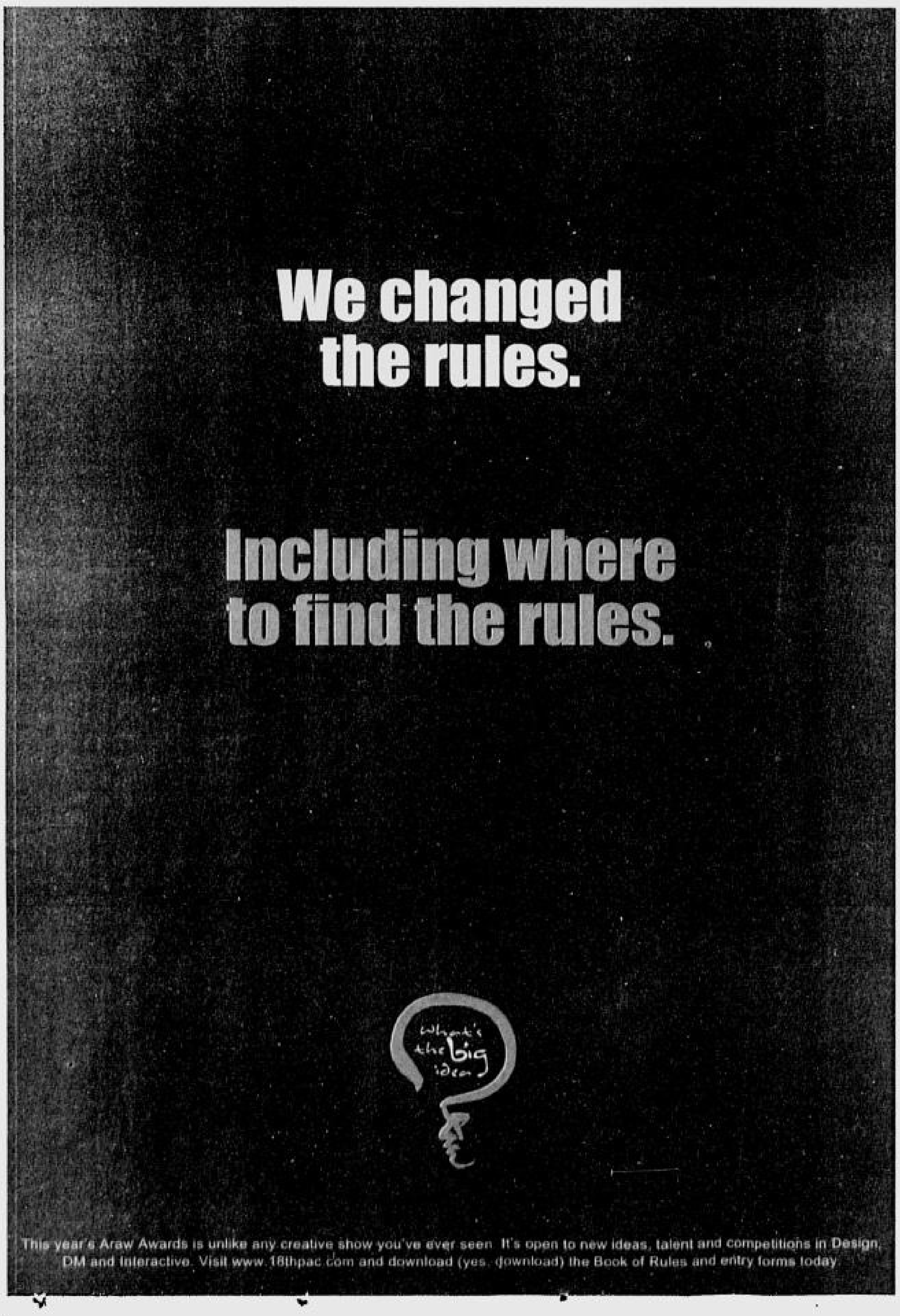
The Davide Commission, headed by former Commission on Elections chair and now Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., exhaustively investigated the causes of the 1989 coup attempt.

Romulo said that, if he remembered correctly, he had also said the following in the interview: "I hope there will be no 200 pushups and that these mutineers will be court-martialed forthwith; otherwise, this adventurism will be repeated. However, their legitimate grievances, especially regarding corruption in the purchase of equipment, must be attended to."

This portion of his remarks, however, was not aired.

Bunye said Ms Macapagal would meet with business groups soon although no definite date had yet been set.

On Thursday, an irate President lashed out at the business community's lack of appreciation for her handling of the mutiny, which she pointed out was solved in 19 hours.



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Cops stop searches in Muslim areas

By Leila Salaverria

MEMBERS of Muslim communities in Metro Manila yesterday heaved a collective sigh following the cessation of "police operations" to track down escaped Indonesian terror suspect Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi.

Datu Amerol Gulam Ambiong, head of the Metro Manila Peace and Coordinating Council yesterday said Muslim communities have become "quiet and peaceful."

He also said that he has spoken with Philippine National Police chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, who assured him that no raids in Muslim areas would be conducted unless they receive intelligence reports on the presence of Al-Ghozi.

But Ambiong yesterday cautioned police about the intelligence reports they receive, saying the authorities should scrutinize the reports thoroughly.

Ambiong also said that should they spot Al-Ghozi in their area, members of the community would definitely help the authorities in capturing him.

On July 14, Al-Ghozi and Abu Sayyaf members Abdulmukim Ong Edris and Omar Opik Lasal escaped from their detention cell in Camp Crame.

Al-Ghozi is a member of the Jemaah Islamiya terror group, and has allegedly confessed to his involvement in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings in Metro Manila that killed 22 people.

There is still no trace of the Indonesian or the Abu Sayyaf men, even after police conducted several operations in Islamic communities in Metro Manila.

During the operations, police also rounded up several persons, an act Muslim leaders had widely condemned.

Mendoza adjusts LTO fees

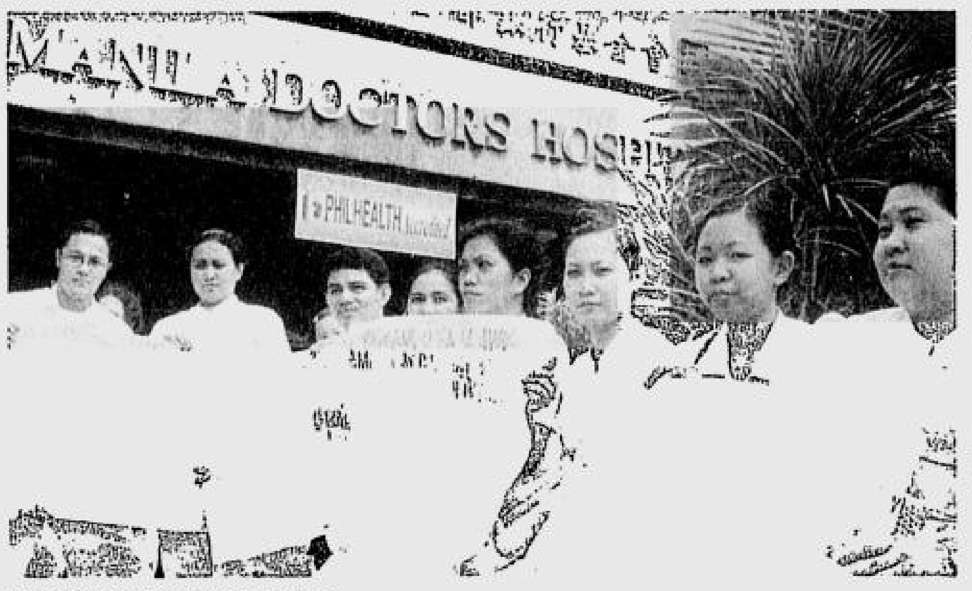
TRANSPORT groups and owners of private vehicles will welcome this piece of good news.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza yesterday suspended the collection of the adjusted computer fee required in the registration of vehicles and application of drivers' licenses.

This means car owners would be paying P132, instead of P154, to the Land Transportation Office when they register their vehicles.

Drivers seeking to renew their licenses would also be paying P52.80, not P65, in license cost.

Mendoza, also the LTO chief, issued a memorandum ordering all regional directors, assistant directors, transportation district officers, and other LTO employees to adjust the collection of fees, saying there is a need to review the recommendations regarding the computer fee. *Tina Santos*



PROTESTERS IN WHITE
Nurses, attendants and rank-and-file employees of the Manila Doctors Hospital on UN Avenue in Manila, take to the streets to protest the alleged huge salary deductions, including labor benefits, from their take-home pay. ERIK ARAZAS

Bus firms welcome MMDA system

By Tina Santos

OPERATORS of buses and other public utility vehicles yesterday welcomed the plan of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to implement the organized bus dispatching system.

The system would allow public utility vehicles exclusive use of the yellow lanes on roads and highways.

"Let's give it a try," said Claire dela Fuente, president of the Metro Manila Bus Operators Association. "I think it's a wise move by the MMDA.""

In a phone interview, Dela Fuente said that while she agrees with the proposal, the success of the program would still depend on how serious the MMDA is in implementing it.

Dela Fuente cited the advantages bus drivers and operators would gain once the single-dispatching system is implemented.

She said that the system may prove to be a safeguard against bus robbers.

"Holdup men would usually order bus drivers to drive away from the sidewalks before they alight on the island in the middle of the road," she said. "But with the system, it would be easy for policemen to spot (the robbers) and run after them."

The same goes for "colorum" buses, she said. Traffic enforcers would no longer have a hard time apprehending drivers of illegal buses since they would all be occupying a common lane.

MMDA chair Bayani Fernando earlier proposed the scheme to minimize traffic jams on roads and highways.

Trader knew who his killers were, says kin

THE MEN who ambushed on Monday grocery chain owner Alberto Roldan and his driver, Alexander Amondina, knew the victims well and could be the same men who had robbed the trader's family at least eight times in the past, said Senior Supt. Ernesto Catungal, Pasig City police chief.

Catungal said his suspicions were bolstered after a man who identified himself as one of the robbers called to mock the family.

"You still have a lot of money, don't you?" the caller told a family member, according to Catungal.

Roldan and Amondina were killed when three men attacked them in a narrow intersection at the back of the King Arthur's motel in Pasig City.

Police said robbery was the probable motive.

Members of the victim's family are now seeking police protection.

"Someone called us several times," said Roldan's daughter, Kaye. "He said things like we should not worry because they missed the money. We fear for our lives. We fear for our safety."

In a phone interview, Kaye added that her father or his driver could have known the killers. That was why the robbers killed them.

She said her dad would never fight off robbers.

"He would always tell all our cashiers never to refuse a robber the money," Kaye said. "'It's just money anyway,' (Roldan) would tell them that."

Despite the previous robberies, the victims never changed their routine and this made them vulnerable, said SPO2 Roberto Garcia, officer-on-case. *Luige del Puerto*

Raid on Laarni townhouse questioned

By Leila Salaverria and Luige del Puerto

AUTHORITIES may have hit a snag when they raided the house that is said to belong to Laarni Enriquez, alleged mistress of former President Joseph Estrada, in connection with the failed coup attempt last July 27.

A lawyer of the Department of Justice pointed out that the police had no warrant when they conducted the search on Enriquez's alleged townhouse on J. Vargas St. in Mandaluyong, which military rebels supposedly used as a staging point before they holed up at the Oakwood Premier Hotel in Makati.

The lack of a search warrant could very well bring down the government's case against Enriquez, said the lawyer who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But according to the Mandaluyong police chief, the raid happened at the height of the mutiny and there was no time to get a search warrant because it was a Sunday.

Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, himself a lawyer, said they could easily defend their actions in court.

"You tell him to read the decisions of the Supreme Court," he said, citing the case of People of the Philippines vs. De Gracia.

Velasquez said that in the case, which arose out of the 1989 coup attempt, the Supreme Court affirmed the legality of a raid which was done out of expediency.

METROBRIEFS

Robbed, slain, found

THE BODY of a man believed to be a robbery victim was found in Taguig early yesterday morning. The man, who bore stab wounds in the body, was between 30 to 35 years old, 5'2" in height, wearing black pants, grey socks, black shoes and a blue striped polo shirt. His body was found at about 3:00 a.m. at the corner of Road 1 and Block 3, Pan-Am Village, Sto. Niño, Zone 11, Western Bicutan, Taguig. Policemen recovered the backpack of the victim containing his belongings. However, his wallet and identification cards were nowhere to be found. *Alcuin Papa*

Life term for P100 shabu

TWO WOMEN will spend their lifetime in prison and pay a fine of P5 million each for selling shabu worth less than P100. Amy Calixto and Evelyn de la Cruz were convicted by Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 35 Judge Ramon Makasiar. Dela Cruz, 45, of Sta. Cruz, Manila, was caught selling 0.057 grams of shabu in a buy-bust operation of the Western Police District Drug Enforcement Unit in Sept. 7, 2002. She was also sentenced to 14 years to 17 years behind bars for possessing three more sachets of shabu, 0.115 grams in all. Calixto, 31, of Sta. Ana, Manila, was also arrested in a buy-bust operation of antidrug operatives in Paco Market. She was caught selling 0.077 grams of shabu to police poseur buyers. "Drug pushers personify the devil incarnate," Makasiar said in his decision. *Tarra Quismundo*

Shooting straight in Manda

HOSTAGE takers should avoid Mandaluyong City or risk getting shot between the eyes by lawmen. The city government opened the other day a firing range on the fourth floor of the National Police building inside the city hall complex to help improve the aim of its police force. On top of that, Mayor Benjamin Abalos Jr. also gave the police 50 units of .45 caliber pistols with the promise of 100 rounds of ammunitions every quarter for practice shooting. *Luige del Puerto*

Marikina pays for rehab

THE MARIKINA police is changing strategies in its drive against the use of illegal drugs by rehabilitating users instead of sending them to jail. Sr. Supt. Felipe Rojas, Marikina police chief, said they had enrolled 24 drug dependents at the Marikina Holding Center rehabilitation program since January. He said the relatives of users opted to enroll the latter in the three-month program upon the advise of the police. The program, which the local government runs, is free but users have to pay for a drug test and a medical examination. *Luige del Puerto*

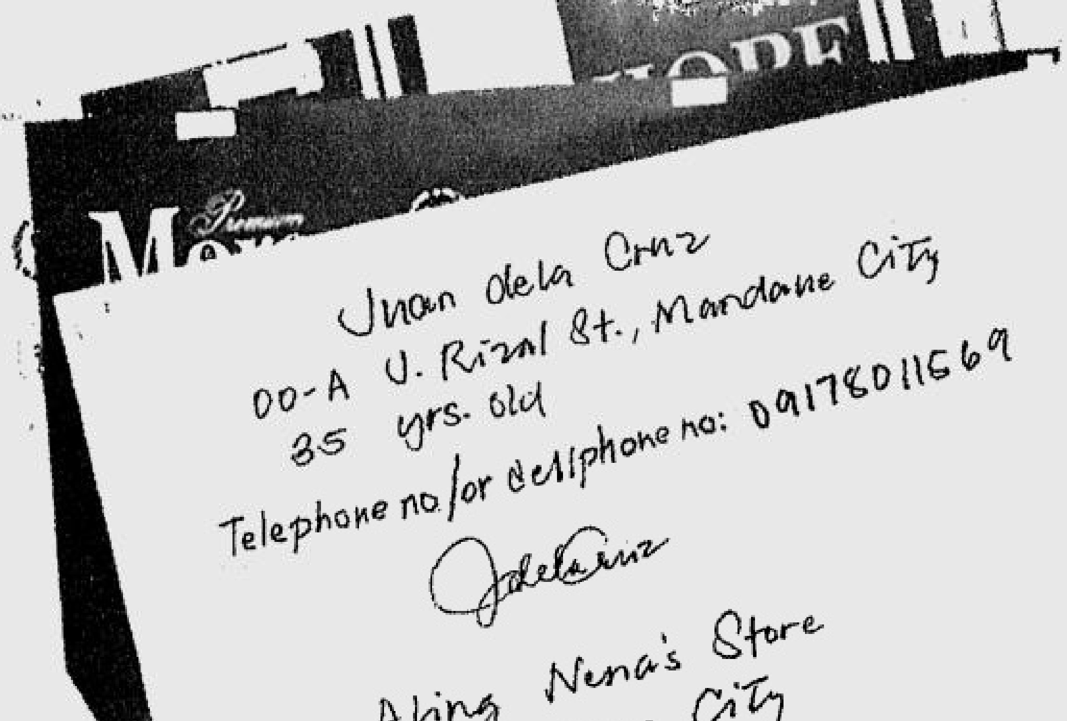
R. Ocampo; 73

RODOLFO Ocampo, father of Rotary Club of Pasay president Caloy T. Ocampo, died on Aug. 1. He was 73. His remains lie in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills. Cremation will be held today at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque after the 9 a.m. Mass in Sanctuario de San Jose.

The regular luncheon meeting today of the Rotary Club of Pasay is cancelled.

HOPE & More
MEGAMILLION STAKES
PROMO UPDATE

Here's the latest on the biggest, longest-running promo. So winners can be notified immediately after each draw, **RESIDENCE TELEPHONE OR CELLPHONE NOS. ARE TO BE WRITTEN IN THE ENTRIES.** Thus, entry forms for the next draws should contain the following; name, address, age, **TELEPHONE/CELLPHONE NOS.**, signature and store name and address.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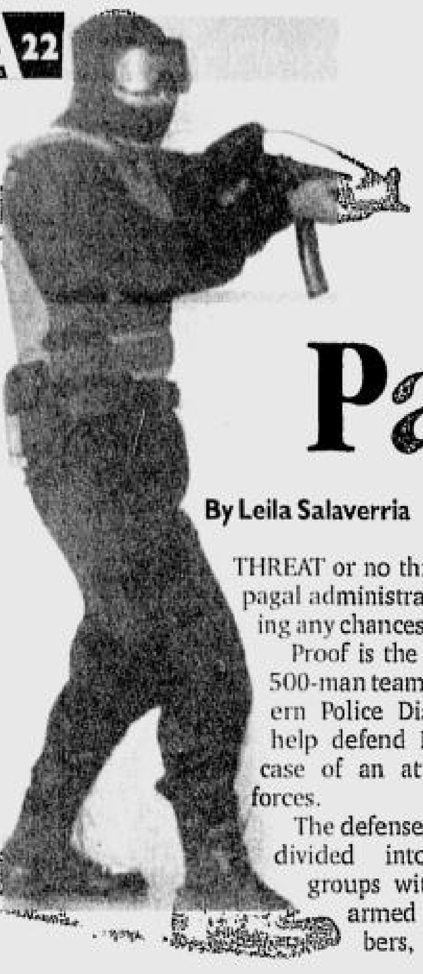

Palace defense boosted

By Leila Salaverria

THREAT or no threat, the Macapagal administration is not taking any chances.

Proof is the formation of a 500-man team from the Western Police District that will help defend Malacañang in case of an attack by rogue forces.

The defense force, which is divided into eight task groups with 536 heavily armed police members, will be deployed at key places around the presidential palace.

It is headed by WPD District Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong and Police Community Precinct 8 commander Co Yee Co Jr.

The formation of the defense force was contained in an Aug. 4 memo signed by Chief Insp. Florencio Ortilla, which orders WPD station directors to assign their respective personnel to the defense force.

Included in the defense preparations is the deployment of another force to protect the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard.

The WPD has approximately 3,000 policemen.

The eight task groups are Antabay, which is responsible for intelligence gathering; Special Operations, which includes the Explosives and Ordnance Division, Special Weapons and Tactics, the force and spotter team and the motorcycle reaction team; Mendiola, is responsible for securing the Chino Roces bridge; and the Laurel, Solano, Arlegui, US Embassy, and Mobile task groups.

Task Groups Mendiola, Laurel, Solano and Arlegui are under the command of the Presidential Security Group.

Bulaong however downplayed the formation of the defense force saying it was only a "re-enforcement" of a security plan formulated in 2001.

He stressed that there was nothing new about the task groups.

The WPD director also noted that while the police remained on alert, the number of policemen put on standby for deployment had been lessened.

Security measures have been reinforced around the presidential palace following the July 27 failed mutiny by junior military officers.

Text crime, Text 117

POLICE assistance is now just one text away after Interior Secretary Jose Lina announced that the government's Emergency Hotline 117 can now be reached by texting 117.

Lina said Text 117 is now on its initial inter-connection phase with Smart, Globe, Sun and PLDT Hype.

Residents from all over the country could now report crimes, complaints and emergencies by sending messages to 117.

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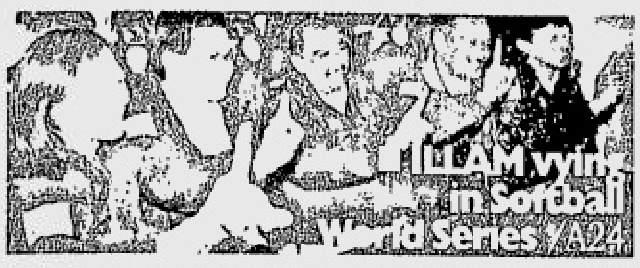
BILLIARDS: Rack 'Em Up 2; 8:30 a.m., 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. (r); ESPN—Be mesmerized as Pinoy legends Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco Bustamante weave their magic on the pool table.

Asian 9-Ball Tour; 9:30 p.m. (r); ESPN—Witness the finals of the Singapore leg of Asia premier billiards tournament.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- FedEx, SMB try to step up semis bids /A24



ILLAM vying in Softball World Series /A24

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Arroyo seeks help of top 100 firms for SEAG bid

ARROYO: Biggest patron in RP quest for gold.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MALACAÑANG has not forgotten sports, after all.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo underscored this yesterday as he vowed to ask the country's top 100 corporations to chip in and help fund the country's campaign in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

Project director Rod Nepomuceno of the First Gentleman foundation said the fund-raising affair, which he described as a "call for patriotism," will be held on Aug. 15 at the Heroes' Hall in Malacañang.

"He (Arroyo) intends to help the Philippine quest for gold in the Vietnam SEA Games by inviting his friends in the private and government sectors to a pledging session in Malacañang," said Nepomuceno during yesterday's PSA Forum at the Manila Pavilion.

The affair will be held in coordination with the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee which are expected to send at least 600 athletes and officials to compete in Vietnam on Dec. 5-13.

Nepomuceno said Malacañang has already identified 64 gold medal potentials in consultation with the sports bodies, which are in the process of finalizing the composition of the RP delegation.

Arroyo's gesture came at a time when the PSC is in financial crisis, forcing it to review the financial assistance the agency is giving to national sports associations.

With its monthly share from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. slashed in half, the PSC is trying to save enough money to fund the cost of actual participation of the national delegation which is pegged at P70,000 per member.

"What the First Gentleman is doing will ease the responsibilities of the PSC so we can also address other pressing concerns," said PSC chair Eric Buhain, who had already scrapped three grassroots development projects this year to allocate its budget to the SEAG stint.

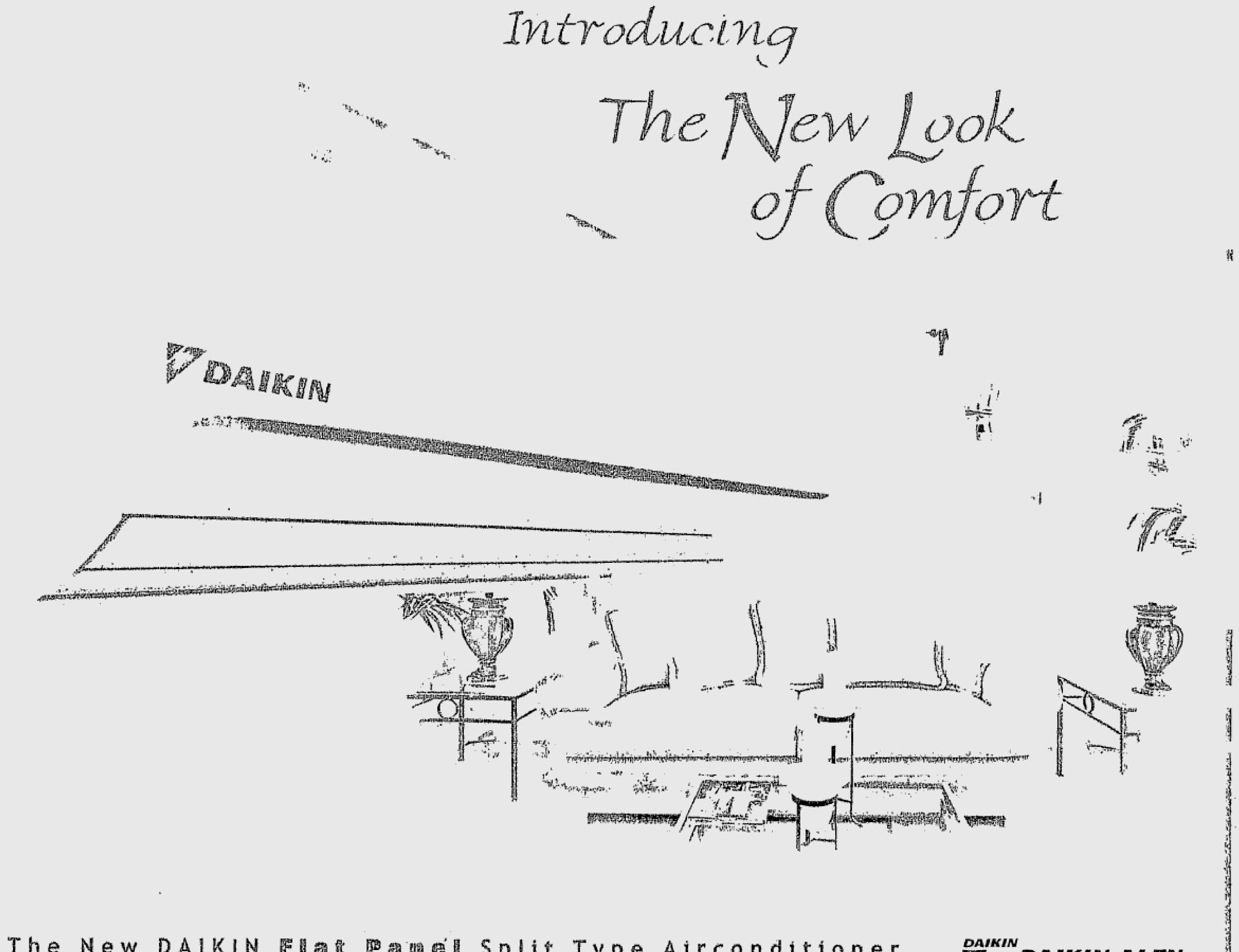
Nepomuceno said he can't guess how much the First Gentleman would be able to raise, but nevertheless expressed optimism that the top businesses would give Philippine sports their full backing.

"It has been proven repeatedly that sports achievements inspire our people. And when a country is proud of itself, the people also become more productive," said Nepomuceno.

A former country manager of the International Management Group, Nepomuceno said the First Gentleman was able to raise P30 million during their last fund drive.

"Of that amount, we have given P10 million to sports," said Nepomuceno, referring to the money given to the POC recently which is aimed at boosting the SEAG budget.

This time, Nepomuceno said the funds will be handed to the PSC, which in turn will distribute it to the 28 NSAs seeing action in the SEA Games for the athletes' training, including international exposures.



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Knights seek tie for lead vs Altas

STANDINGS	W	L
Seniors		
San Beda	6	2
Letran	5	2
JRU	5	3
Mapua	4	3
SSC-R	4	3
PCU	3	5
UPHR	2	5
CSB	1	7
Juniors		
San Beda	8	0
SSC-R	5	2
Letran	5	2
CSB	5	3
Mapua	4	3
PCU	2	6
JRU	1	7
UPHR	0	7

GAMES Today (*Rizal Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—UPHR vs Letran (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.—Mapua vs SSC-R (Srs/Jrs)

LETRAN tries to grab a share of the lead with San Beda when the Knights take on the skidding Perpetual Help today in the second round of the NCAA basketball tournament at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Knights, who finished their first-round schedule at 5-2, seek a repeat victory at 2 p.m. against the Altas, who won their first two games before dropping the next five to barely stay out of the cellar at the end of the first round.

Defending champion San Sebastian and Mapua collide at 4 p.m., with the winner moving into a tie with Jose Rizal for third.

Ronjay Enrile will be a marked man this time after leading the Knights to back-to-back victories against the Altas and the Philippine Christian Dolphins.

"I'm sure they (Altas) will be watching Ronjay closely," said Letran coach Louie Alas.

Even if the Altas succeed in checking Enrile, the Knights would still be a tough nut to crack with Jonathan Aldave, Boyet Bautista, Erick Rodriguez, Dale Santos and Jonathan Pinera.

The Altas, on the other hand, should get topnotch plays from Khiel Misa, Robert Barnson and Dom Javier to halt their awful slide.

Coming off an 84-73 win over the College of St. Benilde Blazers, the defending champion Stags hope to make it two in a row over the Cardinals, who lost by just two points in their first meeting, 63-61.

Leomar Najorda, who pulled off a 30-point feat against the Blazers, has to approximate that fiery form against the Cardinals.

June Navarro

Kobe loses choco deal

TRENTON, New Jersey—The maker of a chocolate spread is phasing out endorsements from Kobe Bryant in part because of the sexual assault charge against the NBA superstar.

Ferrero, an Italian company with US headquarters in New Jersey, said on Monday that its contract with the Los Angeles Lakers guard expires in January.

"Marketing plans established earlier this year did not contemplate a contract renewal," the company said in a statement. "Considering the recent developments, Kobe's image on Nutella labels and promotional material is being phased out."

Bryant, 24, is charged with sexually assaulting a 19-year-old woman on June 30 in Colorado.

Until this summer, Bryant was one of the most marketable images in sports. He has a multimillion-dollar sneaker deal with Nike and contracts with Sprite, McDonald's and Spalding.

Even before he was charged, marketing experts predicted the case could cost him about $100 million in potential earnings. *AP*

FedEx, SMB try to step up semis bids

STANDINGS	W	L
Group A		
Red Bull	2	0
Talk N Text	2	0
FedEx	1	1
Yonsei	0	2
Novi Sad	0	2

STANDINGS	W	L
Group B		
Alaska	2	0
Coca-Cola	1	1
San Miguel	1	1
RP Team	1	1
Jilin Yi Qi	0	2

GAMES TODAY (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
5 p.m.—FedEx vs Yonsei U
7:30 p.m.—San Miguel vs Magnolia-Jilin

FEDEX and San Miguel Beer try to stay in contention for semifinal slots when they go up against separate foreign rivals today in the Samsung-PBA Invitational Championship at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The FedEx Express take on Yonsei University of South Korea in the first game at 5 p.m. with coach Derrick Pumaren and his wards hoping to bounce back from a heartbreaking loss at the hands of the Red Bull Barako Thunder.

Carrying the same 1-1 record as the Express after yielding to Coca-Cola, 98-93, the Beermen are expected give Magnolia-Jilin of China no chance to entertain thoughts of an upset in the main match at 7:30 p.m.

With only two games left in the elims, Magnolia-Jilin and Yonsei University have yet to taste victory in the single-round tournament along with Lamoiyan-Novi Sad of Yugoslavia.

The Koreans had bowed to Red Bull and Talk 'N Text, the Chinese lost to Alaska and Cebuana Lhuiller-RP while the Yugos were overpowered by the Phone Pals and the Express.

The Express are expected to use their pressure defense and fastbreak plays against the Koreans. The same strategy worked wonders for FedEx against Lamoiyan-Novi Sad.

Wynne Arboleda, Vergel Meneses, Renren Ritualo, Egay Billones, Roger Yap and John Ferriols took advantage of their speed as the Express wore down the towering Yugos.

"It worked against Novi Sad. Hopefully, we can employ it again with success against Yonsei," said FedEx coach Derrick Pumaren, who is also pinning his hopes on Jerry Codiñera, Omanzie Rodriguez, Gherome Ejercito and Marvin Ortiguerra.

Yancy De Ocampo is a doubtful starter after hurting his foot during practice recently. *June Navarro*

RUDY Hatfield of Coca-Cola drives past Ali Peek of Alaska during their PBA game at the Cuneta Astrodome Sunday. The Aces won, 81-78. VAL HANDUMON

Test case

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FOR readers who are not familiar with the Air21-Bong Hawkins contract dispute, allow me to recall the incidents leading to the long-drawn controversy.

In January 2001, Hawkins signed a four-year Uniform Player's Contract with Tanduay and four months later signed a Memorandum of Agreement giving either party an exit clause or right to severe ties after two years of the four-year contract. The UPC was submitted to the Philippine Basketball Association, but not the MOA because it was a side agreement.

In 2002, Air21 bought the Tanduay franchise, inheriting both the UPC and MOA contracts of Hawkins. For the entire 2002 season, Air21 paid Hawkins' monthly salary of about P400,000 even if Hawkins did not play, but at the start of the 2003 season Air 21 decided not to, citing the exit clause in the MOA. As a result, Hawkins appealed to the PBA to compel Air21 to pay him for the next two years despite the fact that he is no longer playing.

On April 9, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said that Air21 should pay Hawkins P9.6 million, representing the outstanding balance of the contract for the next two years. The PBA board of governors is set to vote on this issue on Aug. 12.

That Eala ruled in favor of Hawkins' appeal is understandable because the MOA, which Air21 is invoking, does not exist in the files of the PBA simply because the memo was not part of the UPC submitted to the league. At any rate, Air21 believes that it has a strong case against Hawkins because the player signed the MOA with his full consent and free will. I gathered Air21 is even prepared for a long and tedious court battle.

But Hawkins said (in an interview with PDI sportswriter June Navarro) that he was not filing a case against the team, citing the danger of losing and getting nothing in the end. "I could smell danger the moment I bring the case to court because if I lose, I will definitely get nothing in return. Let's just leave it in the hands of the commissioner."

Prior to the start of this year's season, Air21 has offered the talented 6-foot-4 power forward (formerly with Alaska) P2.7 million to settle the issue once and for all, but Hawkins refused. It's a pity because Hawkins is a great player and the legions of basketball fans would surely love to see him play again. However, his bull-headedness and insistence to get paid millions even without playing are absurd.

The PBA board should address this problem soonest and render a fair and just decision for the good of the league. I dread the day when the winner of this long-drawn dispute is decided in the courtroom, rather than in the boardroom.

***

PAST OLYMPIANS. We continue to take a look back at the outstanding Olympians of the modern era. When the Games resumed in London in 1948 (the Games were disrupted by World War II), a little-known mother of two hogged the spotlight, winning four gold medals in track and field. At the age of 39, Blankore Kose of the Netherlands won the 100 meters, 200m, the 4X100m relay and the 80m hurdles.

CARDONA AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Cardona learns value of discipline

By Dennis U. Eroa

BENCHED for the first time in his blossoming career, La Salle's Mac Cardona yesterday said the experience made him appreciate the value of discipline above anything else.

"I would like to say sorry to La Salle, the alumni, coach Franz (Pumaren, manager Terry (Capistrano), the fans and my teammates," the 6-foot-one Cardona told the INQUIRER in an exclusive interview, two days after he watched helplessly as the Archers struggled past the NU Bulldogs, 92-85, in overtime last Saturday at the Blue Eagle Gym.

Cardona, whose electrifying moves to the basket and boundless energy have carried La Salle to numerous victories in the past, showed up in uniform but wasn't fielded by Pumaren as punishment for being late in practice.

Manny Salgado, speaking in behalf of team manager Capistrano, said La Salle achieved a double victory during that match.

Joseph Yeo's buzzer-beating three-point shot to send the game into overtime and Tyrone Tang's masterful execution in the absence of Cardona proved the key ingredients as the Archers finally collared the Bulldogs.

"First, we made a statement about discipline. Then, we survived NU," said Salgado.

"The character of the team showed because it was very clear that Franz was ready to take the risk by not fielding Cardona," he added.

While Salgado and Pumaren said that Cardona remains "doubtful" for La Salle's crucial date with arch-rival and titleholder Ateneo on Saturday at the Araneta Coliseum, both officials noted that Cardona must learn, however painful it is, from the experience.

And Cardona, the 2001 rookie of the year, wholeheartedly accepts the challenge.

"It's my fault and I must be stronger after this. I also need to focus more on my game. I think there's no substitute for discipline," Cardona said.

ILLAM team vying in Softball W'Series

THE ILLAM selection during yesterday's sendoff party. RUDY ESPERAS

TWELVE players from the International League Association of Manila will compete in the 2003 Softball World Series from Aug. 11 to 16 in Kalamazoom, Michigan.

Armed with boundless enthusiasm and fighting spirit, the 12-member ILLAM team will represent the Asian-Pacific Region in the annual gathering of the world's best girls' softball teams in the 16-18 age division.

Dubbed as the Enervon Philippine team, the nationals were presented to the media yesterday during a luncheon tendered in their honor by United Laboratories, Inc at the Bonaventure Bldg in Ortigas Avenue.

"We applaud these young women not only for winning over their foes, but more importantly for showing us and soon the rest of the world that the playing field knows no sex or race but recognizes hard work, commitment, camaraderie and fighting heart," said Alvin So, Unilab product director.

Others supporting the team are Northwest Airlines, Cebuana Lhuillier, Burlington, Splash Corporation, Sun Life Financial, Sun Cellular and Pacific Paint and Oil.

The team members are: Sofia Prieto Borromeo, Regina de Leon Muñoz, Lorraine Uy, Alexis Causapin, Samantha Uichico, Marlyn Cerilo, Luisa Buenvenida Moran, Amelia Cruz, Maica Bunag, Dione Macasu, Rachel de Guzman and Raiya Dizer.

Former Blu Boy stalwart Randy Dizer, a veteran of the 1985 World Baseball Championship, will coach the nationals. Other members of the coaching staff are UP Professor Kiko Diaz, and Ulysses Mejia.

Audrey Uy, a volunteer parent, is team manager. Others present during the event were Louie Zamora, president of ILLAM and league commissioner Marisun Uichico.

Dennis U. Eroa

Vengeful Forest Hills sweeps Alabang, gains Fed golf semis

Standings:

Group I: 13 Eastridge, 12 Manila Golf, 10 Southwoods, 4 Highlands, 3 Mimosa

Group II: 18 Forest Hills, 15 Alabang, 11 Valley, 8 Wack Wack, 7 Orchard, 5 Sherwood Hills

Group III: 12 Riviera, 12 Mt. Malarayat, 11 Royal Northwoods, 11 Sherwood Hills, 9 Canlubang, 5 Sta. Elena

By Jong Arcano

FOREST Hills made up for its stunning loss last week to Valley by sweeping Alabang, 4-0, at the weekend and booking an outright semifinal ticket in the Federation Golf League.

The suspense-filled weekend matches also saw defending champion Manila Golf earn a badly-needed win and also-ran Sta. Elena get something for its battered pride.

Forest Hills stayed in front in Group II.

Jong Laput and Ranie Carlos stopped the unbeaten run of Iggy Clavecilla and Jimbo Inigo, in best ball play to cap Forest Hills' sixth win against three draws and a loss.

Pending the completion of the Manila Golf-Eastridge match next Tuesday, Forest Hills will either get the first or second outright seat in the semis. The two teams with the best winning ratios in the eliminations advance.

Meanwhile, Manila Golf revved up its semis drive with a 3-1 win over Tagaytay Highlands and put itself in a good position to jump into the third stage without having to go through the quarterfinals. It will host Eastridge in a duel ending the eliminations.

A win by Eastridge would give it the No. 1 spot and Forest Hills the other berth while an MGC win would clinch for it the second berth and Forest the first slot. In case of a draw, Eastridge will join Forest Hills in the semis.

Sta. Elena shattered the qualifying hopes of Sherwood Hills with a 2.5-1.5 triumph at home. Eliminated as early as three weeks ago, Sta. Elena's big upset booted Sherwood Hills out of the quarterfinals, leaving Riviera, Northwoods and Mt. Malarayat to fight it out this weekend.

Riviera beat Northwoods, 3-1, and grabbed a share of the lead with Malarayat at 12 points.

In no-bearing matches, Manila Southwoods trounced Mimosa, 3.5-.5, to finish third place in Group I. In Group II, Wack Wack blanked John Hay, 4-0, fourth place and Orchard drew with No. 3 Valley to place fifth.

SPORTSWATCH

3 Filipino IMs win openers

FILIPINO IMs Mark Paragua, Joseph Sanchez and Ronald Dableo won their opening matches in the 164-man X Championnat de Nice at the Grand Hotel Aston in Nice, France yesterday. Paragua, winner of the just concluded XV Cannes Open, defeated Mathieu Tournier. Asian 3.2a zonal champion Dableo beat Christian Vallette with the black pieces while 2003 Milano Open titlist Sanchez bested Eric Andre-Birence. In the second round, Dableo and Paragua will part ways while Sanchez tackles Falvio Perez of France.

Go promises athletics grand slam

FOR athletics chief Go Teng Kok, a "grand slam" for the Philippines before the end of 2003—a voice in the International Athletic Federation executive council, a successful hosting of the Asian Championships and a record-breaking gold haul for track and field in the Southeast Asian Games--is highly probable. Go made the forecast at the PSA Forum, the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president's first public appearance since the near-fatal July 1 assassination attempt on his life. "These were the three things in my mind before I was shot, three things in my mind while I was in the hospital and three things I feel God wishes me to fulfill by giving me a second lease on life."

Scooter meet goes to Dumaguete

THE SHELL Scooter King Challenge, a motorsport for the masses, returns to Dumaguete this Saturday. Kelly Manlangit, area manager of Shell for Negros, said the event, now in its second year, is expected to attract more than 300 riders. The Scooter King Challenge will be held side by side with the Shell 2T Triple Tricycle King Challenge and the Shell Rimula Jeepney King Challenge. The Tricyle King, a contest among tricycle drivers, will be held on Friday in Dumaguete, while the Jeepney King, for jeepney drivers, will be contested in Bacolod on Sunday. Events organizer is Bing Bang Dulce of Race Motorsports .

Pasargad booters edge Navy

PASARGAD Football Club beat Navy, 9-8, last Sunday at the San Andres Sports Gym in Manila. National futsal player Payman Safavi scored four goals, Rambo rolled in four and Randy Leyble, Mojahed and Essy Sedigh contributed one each as Pasargad upended the Navymen. Pasargad finished second to Kaya in the recent Samsung-GNC Football League. The United Football Association and GNC organized the meet with the City of Manila through Manila Sports Council chair Ali Atienza.

Don Bosco Makati routs foe

DON Bosco Makati routed Magat Salamat Elementary School, 15-0, last Sunday in the Metro Manila tournament of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festivaly School at Ateneo's field 1 in Quezon City. Claret, Colegio San Agustin, San Beda and Don Bosco Tondo United also triumphed in the tourney sanctioned by the Philippine Football Federation and sponsored by Red Ribbon and Bakeshop. Claret, CSA, San Beda and Don Bosco United posted identical 2-1 victories over Don Bosco, De La Salle Zobel, Magat Salamat ES B and La Salle Greenhills, respectively. Southridge and Xavier battled to a 1-1 draw in the other match.

Rodriguez new Ozamiz coach

COMPAK-Shineway-Ozamiz City has signed up multititled Francis Rodriguez as new head coach to bolster its chances in the National Basketball League playoffs starting Aug. 9 in Cebu City. Rodriguez, who steered San Sebastian to three NCAA crowns including a back-to-back in 1988-89, will be taking over the chores of Antonio "Bong" Begontes, who will remain with the team as assistant coach. Compak-Shineway-Ozamiz City team owner Mayor Reynaldo O. Parojinog Sr. chose Rodriguez, whose resumé includes championships with the RP team, the defunct MBA, the PBL, UAAP and NCAA.

Nat'l taekwondo tourney draws 1,500 jins

AVENTAJADO

THE 26TH Petron National Taekwondo Championships unwraps on Aug. 9-10 at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium with more than 1,500 jins seeing action.

Philippine Taekwondo Association president Robert N. Aventajado said the tourney will feature individual and team competitions.

Organizing committee chair Sung Chon Hong says jins from all PTA affiliated chapters and branches throughout Metro Manila and the provinces as well as those from various military services will vie in the country which is supported by the Philippine Sports Commission and Milo.

Taipei cagers arrive today

FIVE players standing 6-foot-7 and taller banner the Chinese-Taipei team arriving today to play against Filipino squads.

Tseng Wen-Ting, Wu Chih-Wei and Tien Lei, all standing 6-8; and Wu Tai-Hao and Wu Chih-Yuan, both 6-7; are at the helm of the 15-man roster for the Air21-sponsored RP-Taiwan Goodwill Series.

Also with the team is actor Tuan Chen Fong, Yen Hsing Su in real life, of the hit Chinovela My MVP Valentine.

The Taiwanese will be welcomed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport by basketball godfather Bert Lina.

"I'm sure it will be an exciting friendly series," said Lina. "The Taiwanese are slowly becoming as one of the powerhouse teams in the region and it will definitely be a learning process for them and for our Filipino teams as well."

Chinese-Taipei will play Purefoods, Ginebra, Shell, the RP Cebuana Lhuillier team and the RP-Air21 Youth 20-under squad, which is managed by Air21 president Lito Alvarez and coached by Johny Tam.

"The Taiwanese will definitely be no pushovers as the core of the team is composed of Busan Asian Games veterans," said Alvarez. "These guys have been intact since the Asiad and from what I have gathered, they have become a stronger team since then," Alvarez added.

Nine of the players in Taiwan's roster played in the Asiad, including Yen, who is also a member of the boy band 5566, rival of F4 of Meteor Garden fame. *Roy Luarca*

RP five Malaysia-bound

AN OFFICIAL of the RP men's basketball team expressed optimism that the Filipinos will do good in the South East Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) tournament slated in Malaysia.

Danny Francisco, assistant team manager of the Cebuana Lhuillier backed Nationals, said the squad is ready and prepared despite the absence of UAAP stars James Yap, Paul Artadi, Wesley Gonzales and Rich Alvarez.

Francisco lamented the absence of these players, but said coach Aric del Rosario is considering others who may fill in their respective spots.

In particular, he mentioned St. Francis' twin tower of Ranidel de Ocampo and Irwin Sotto.

"It's unfortunate that the UAAP players can't go with us," he said in the same forum backed by Red Bull, Agfa Colors and Pagcor. "But at least, their absence gives the other players the chance to shine."

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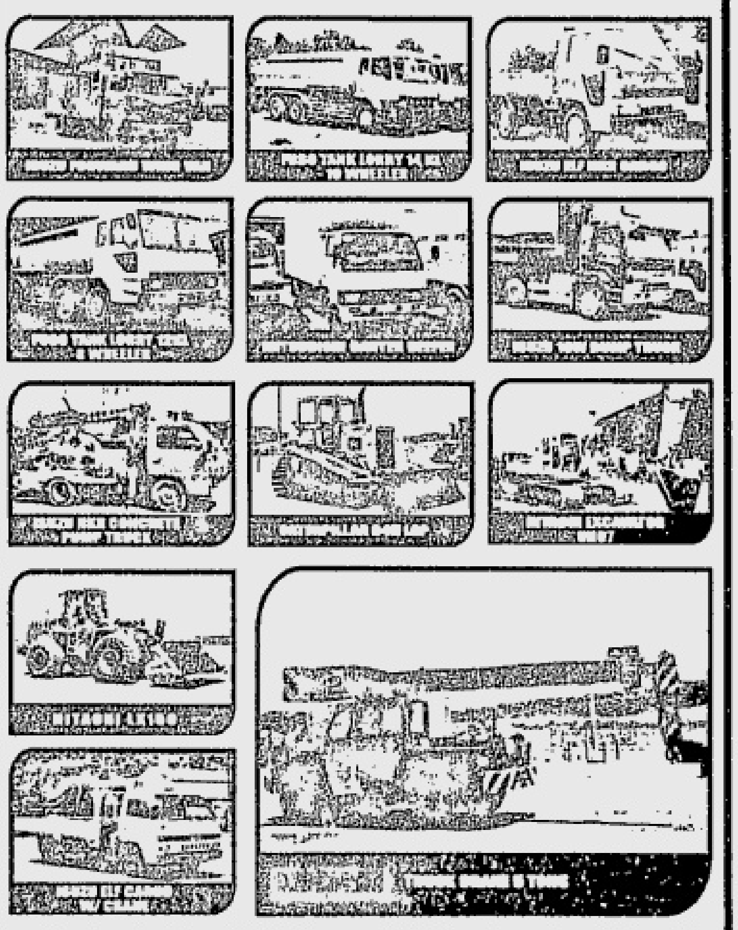

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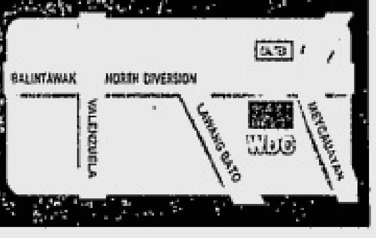

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Hip hop Wednesdays at Padi's

SHOW TIME

PADI'S Point Cavite hosts a non-stop hip hop party every Wednesday of August. The party starts at 9 p.m., presented by 99.9 the Bomb FM Cavite, Colt 45 and Lonestar Lights.

For reservations and other information, call (046) 431-7842. Padi's Point Cavite is located on P. Burgos Street in Caridad, Cavite.

David Caruso topbills 'CSI: Miami'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE THIRD season of "Crime Scene Investigation" may have come to an end on the AXN channel, but fans of the top investigative drama have the equally successful "CSI: Miami" to look forward to viewing on AXN starting Aug. 6. The series airs Wednesday at 9 p.m.

Starring **David Caruso** and Emmy winner **Kim Delaney**, "CSI: Miami" takes the fascinating world of forensics to a new level, and a different context. It follows a South Florida team of investigators who use both cutting-edge scientific methods and old-fashioned police work to solve baffling crimes.

Caruso plays the team leader, Delaney's character specializes in DNA analysis, **Emily Procter** is cast as a ballistics expert, **Adam Rodriguez is an underwater recovery expert, and** Rory Cochrane portrays a cocky investigator with formidable street connections.

"CSI: Miami" is produced by **Jerry Bruckheimer**, and is characterized by the same advanced cinematography and edgy graphics that made the original "Crime Scene Investigation" such a hot favorite of viewers.

Other treats on AXN this month: The different features in the month-long "Salute to Animé" tribute to Japanese animation.

A highlight is the screening of "Metropolis," created by **Osamu Tezuka**, the "godfather" of anime and manga ("Astroboy"), **Katsuhiro Otomo** ("Akira"), and **Rintaro** ("Galaxy Express 999"). "Metropolis" airs at 10 p.m.

Feedback

From **Boy Blue P. Filomeno**, spokesperson of the Philippine Alliance Against Pornography: "We would like to appeal to all TV stations to tone down their programming. The boob tube is now heavily bombarded with sex, violence, vulgarity, gossip, intrigues, and scandals. It has fast become a nightclub or marketplace.

"TV people should always bear in mind the KBP's code, which states, 'In programming, children should always be considered as part of the audience.

"Television has a strong influence on the viewing public, especially on children. If you throw garbage everywhere, the end result

DAVID/ A27

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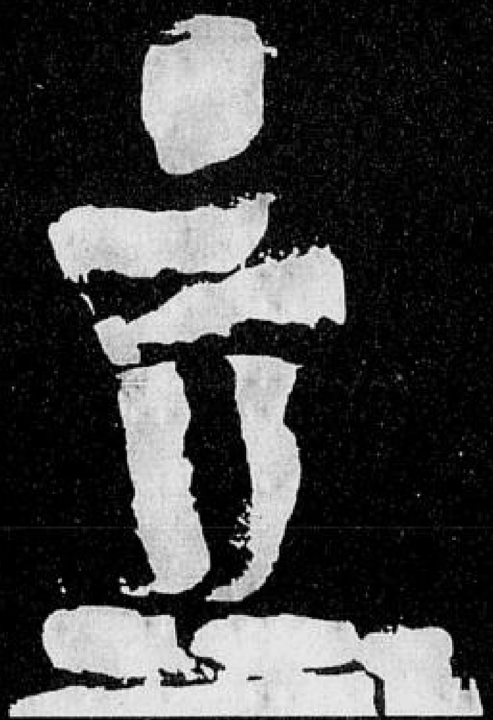

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MY LITTLE EYE R18 1:30,3:30,5:30, 7:30,9:30	TOMB RAIDER 2 PG13 11:50,2:20,4:50, 7:20,9:50	THE IN-LAWS PG13 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10

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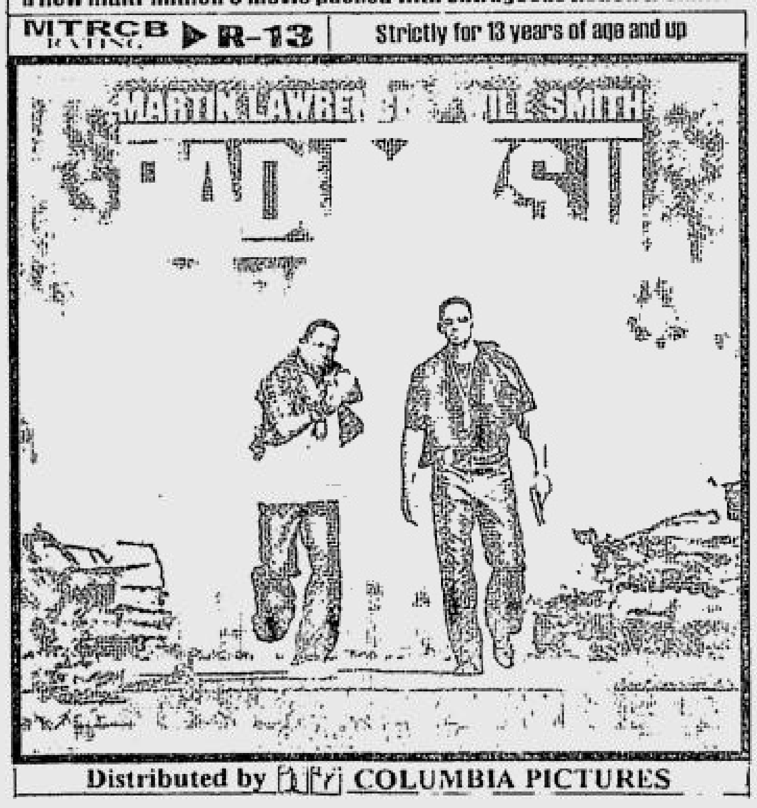

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Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	MOTEL
Ali 2	SNAKE LADY
Ali 3	BULLET PROOF MONK
Ali 4	BAD BOYS 2
Ali 5	TOMB RAIDER 2
Ali 6	IN-LAWS
Ali 7	NAKED WEAPON

ARANETA COLISEUM

AUG 07	UAAP GAMES
AUG 09	UAAP GAMES
AUG 14	UAAP GAMES
AUG 16	UAAP GAMES
AUG 28	UAAP GAMES
AUG 30	UAAP GAMES
Opens December 2003	DISNEY ON ICE Featuring "Beauty & The Beast"

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY [illegible]
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MOTEL
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	MOTEL
B	SNAKE LADY
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MOTEL
CINEMA-2	SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
CINEMA-3	SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TERMINATOR 3
CINEMA-6	DEATH WATCH
CINEMA-7	BAD BOYS 2
CINEMA-8	MASAMANG UGAT
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE IN-LAWS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA-12	BULLETPROOF MONK
CINEMA-14	SNAKE LADY
CINEMA-15	NAKED WEAPON
LORES	
CINEMA 2	[illegible]
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	[illegible]
CINEMA 2	TOMB RAIDER 2
CINEMA 3	DOWN WITH LOVE
CINEMA 4	BULLETPROOF MONK
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	[illegible]
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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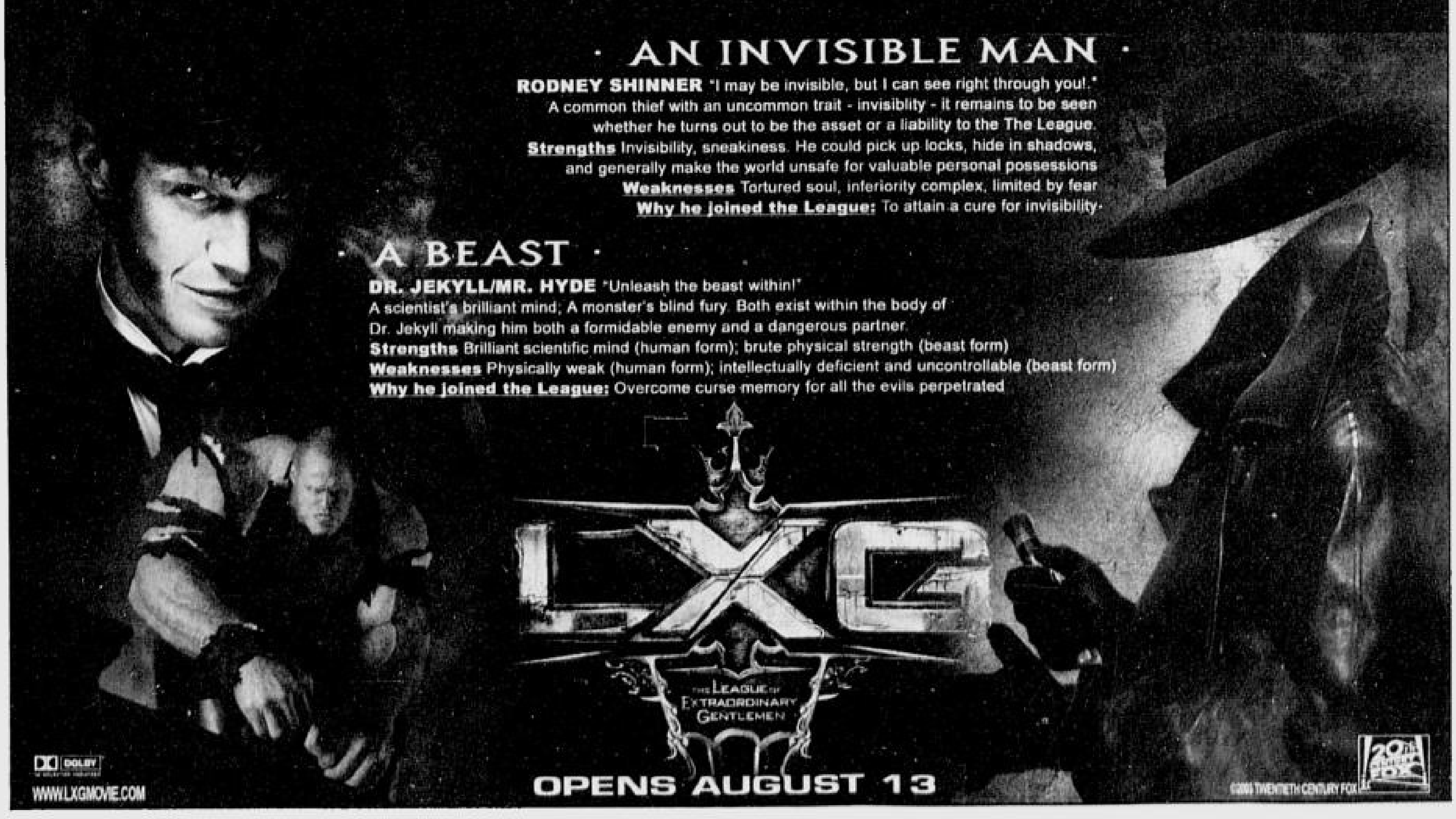

· AN INVISIBLE MAN ·
RODNEY SHINNER "I may be invisible, but I can see right through you!."
A common thief with an uncommon trait - invisiblity - it remains to be seen whether he turns out to be the asset or a liability to the The League.
Strengths Invisibility, sneakiness. He could pick up locks, hide in shadows, and generally make the world unsafe for valuable personal possessions
Weaknesses Tortured soul, inferiority complex, limited by fear
Why he joined the League: To attain a cure for invisibility·

· A BEAST ·
DR. JEKYLL/MR. HYDE "Unleash the beast within!"
A scientist's brilliant mind; A monster's blind fury. Both exist within the body of Dr. Jekyll making him both a formidable enemy and a dangerous partner.
Strengths Brilliant scientific mind (human form); brute physical strength (beast form)
Weaknesses Physically weak (human form); intellectually deficient and uncontrollable (beast form)
Why he joined the League: Overcome curse memory for all the evils perpetrated

OPENS AUGUST 13
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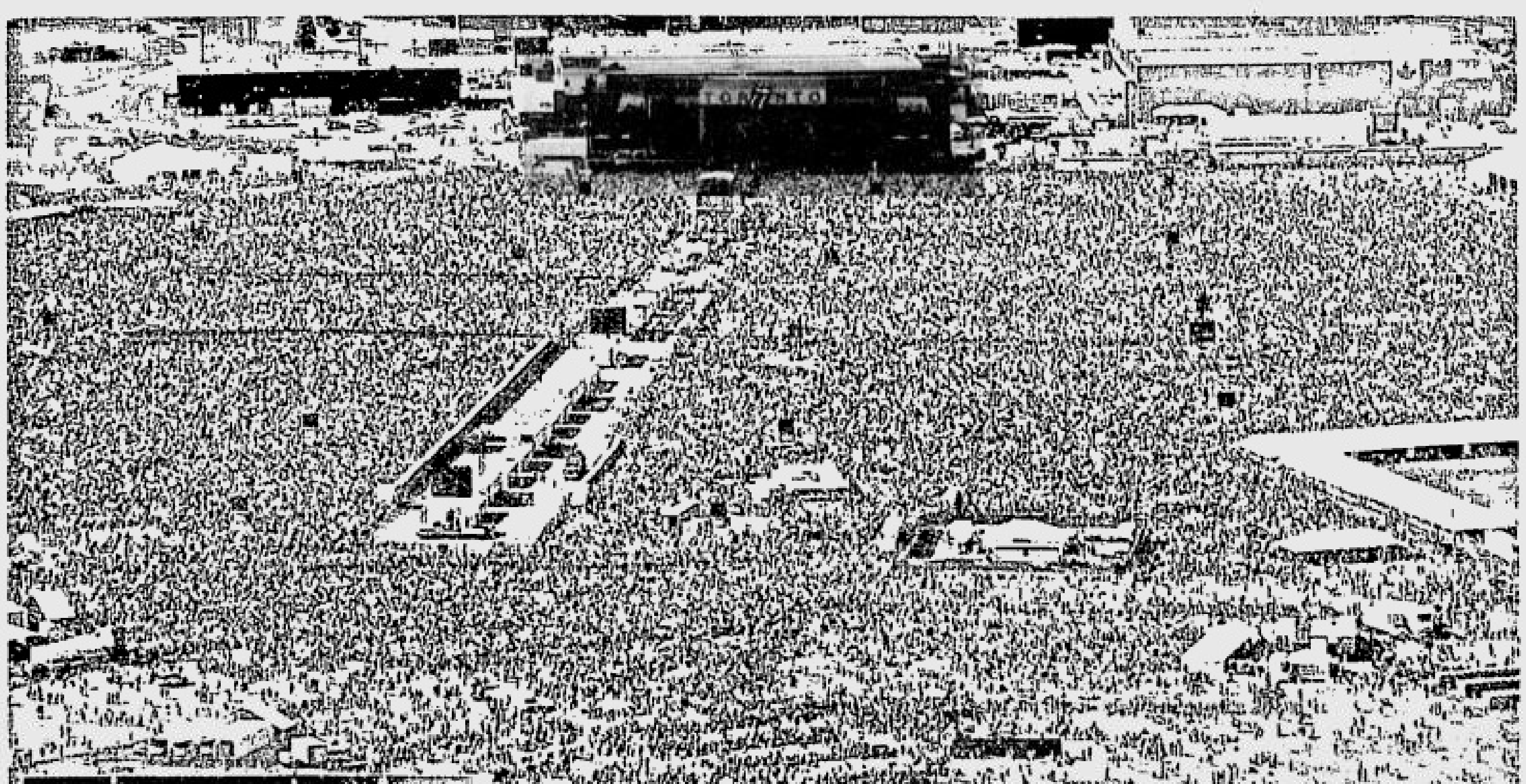

TURNOUT FOR TORONTO
About 450,000 people watch the "SARSstock" concert at Downsview Park in Toronto, which features 15 bands, led by the Rolling Stones which include Keith Richards (above). The July 31 show is meant to help revive Toronto's SARS-stricken economy. AP

Rey Valera sings at Air Force One tonight

SHOW TIME

HIT MAKER and balladeer Rey Valera takes his audience down memory lane tonight, Aug. 6, at Air Force One in Parañaque City.

The ballad master is fresh from his very successful Aug. 3 Araneta Coliseum concert with fellow first-rate performers Rico J. Puno, Hajji Alejandro, Marco Sison and Nonoy Zuñiga.

At Air Force One, a new entertainment venue, Rey is expected to sing his signature songs like "Naalala Ka," "Ako Si Superman," "Maging Sino Ka Man," "Kung Tayo'y Magkakalayo," "Walang Kapalit," "Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko" and "Sinasamba Kita."

Air Force One frequently features solo and group acts in special shows. It's 200-seater entertainment hall equipped with high-tech, turbo audiovisual system and a wide screen on the stage up for better viewing.

VALERA

Air Force One had a launching show with Rico J. and Michelle Estevez.

August performers at Starsvenue

SHOW TIME

AT STARSVENUE, on Pasay Road in Makati City, Albert de Pano sings acoustic pieces every Monday of August.

Tuesday features an acoustic duo called Dual Sound, composed of pre-school teacher Wendy Banzon and guitarist Raymond Octavio.

Wednesday has Christo, which plays blues, classic rock and pop.

Thursday has rising acoustic star Francis "Wings" Soriano. Performing back to back on Friday are Dream Sequence and First Half. Saturday has a female duo called Sole Acoustic, with a laid-back repertoire.

All performances start at 8:30 p.m. Call Bong Ambata at 844-6753.

David Caruso . . .

From page A24

could be flooding. Many TV programs are garbage. This is one of the reasons why our moral values have become distorted.

"Let us not produce TV shows just to make money. We should consider the welfare of our countrymen—before it's too late."

3 new channels

Destiny Cable has added three new, high-caliber channels to its line-up:

Adventure One Channel (A1), on Destiny Cable Channel 20, is a 24-hour venue for outdoor adventure features, personalities, tips, and special events from around the world. It is brought to viewers by Fox and National Geographic.

Sine Pinoy can now be viewed on Destiny's Channel 21. It screens Filipino films 20 hours a day.

And Greetings Live is an interactive in-house channel that invites viewers to greet their friends and loved ones on the tube. The greeting service may be availed of from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Destiny's Sound Stage Channel CATV 46.

Destiny is earmarking P250 million over a period of three years to expand its Cable Internet business. It was cited as "Most Outstanding Internet Service Provider for 2002" in the 14th annual National Consumer Awards (ANCA).

Dexter in August

Last Aug. 1, new recording artist **Dexter** was the guest of The Company in a show at Shangri-La Mall, with **RJ Rosales** and **Dessa**.

Moy Ortiz of The Company co-wrote Dexter's first single from his **album "Puso sa Puso" with** Edith Gallardo. The single, "Bakit Nga Ba Hindi?" is performed by Dexter as a tender duet with **Bituin Escalante.**

On Aug. 14, Dexter guests in **Cris Villonco's** special show at Dish.

Throughout the month, Dexter is promoting his first album and carrier single, which is getting good airplay on FM radio stations.

'Meteor Rain'

Now that "Meteor Garden" has concluded its run on ABS-CBN, it's been replaced by "Meteor Rain," an anthology series featuring the F4 boys in individual adventures.

"Meteor Rain" is a collection of three different stories that feature the F4. **Vanness Wu** stars in the first series.

Coming up: "Meteor Garden 2," which continues the stories of the principal characters in the original series after they graduate from Ying De Xue Yuan.

Night's a thrill at the Streetscape!
Unmask the excitement on August 29.

Watch the eye-popping, heart-stopping opening of Shang's **Streetscape**—the city's newest, hippest place to be—on August 29! Drink in the intoxicating music of Brazilian song goddess **Ive Mendes** who is flying in from the UK for this exclusive performance—while you sample the rich flavors of Streetscape's bars and restos. Enjoy Nu-Brazil songs played on seductive guitar strings and percussions as brightly-clad stilt walkers, jugglers and dancers surround you. Listen to a musical treat from Pinacolada and Bossanova DJs.

[illegible]
Ms. Pops Fernandez

Indulge in henna tattoo and heaps of beads...have your caricature done... or get a face-paint! Dress in your wildest, sexiest, most colorful costumes. It's your night to come alive!

Attendance to the grand launch party will be strictly by invitation. Mall shoppers can get one free invitation with a minimum, same day single purchase of P 2,000 or accumulated receipts of P 3,000 using their Mastercard in any of the stores from August 1, 2003 up to 3pm. of August 29, 2003. Party starts at 6pm. Invitations may be claimed at Level 1 Customer Service Information Desk upon presentation of valid receipts.

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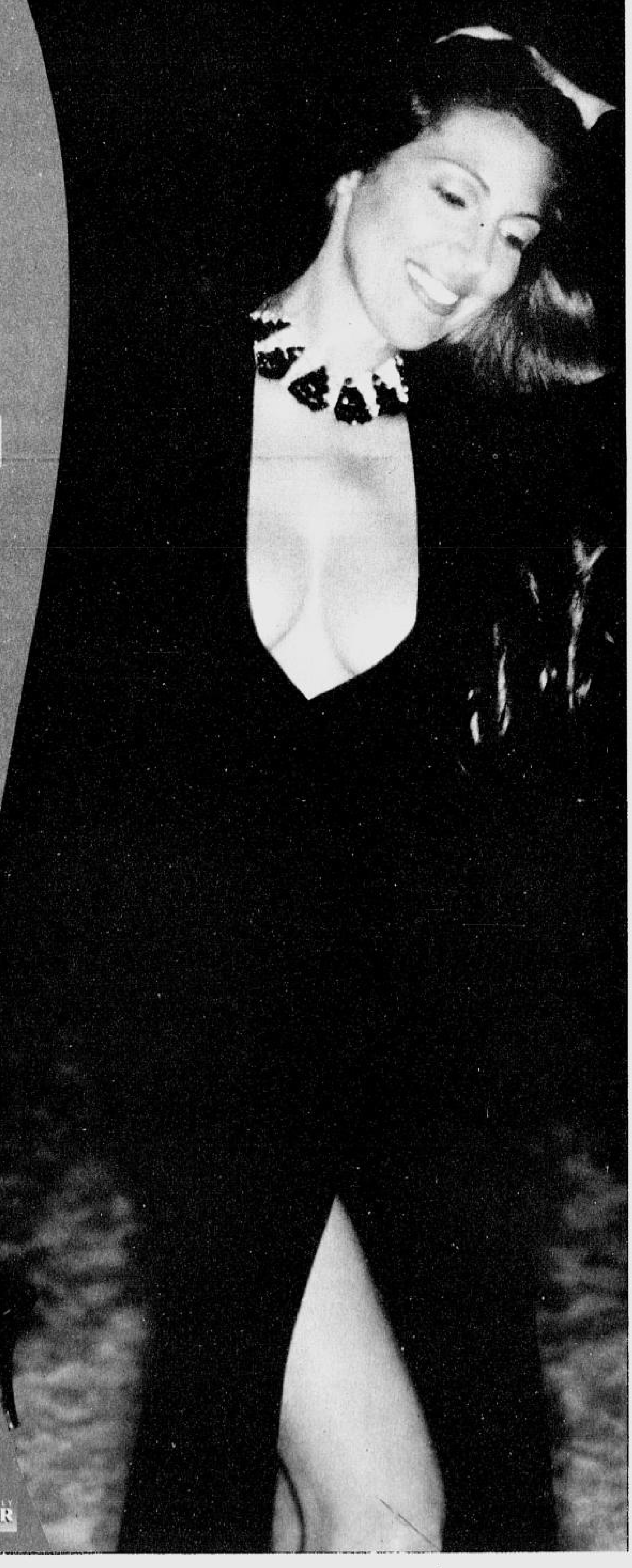


DID YOU KNOW...

There were two Valentinas when "Darna" premiered at the CCP Main Theater last Friday. On stage was actress and environment protector **Chin-Chin Gutierrez** acting out the character, and in the audience was fashion iconoclast **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**, also in full costume complete with a huge fake cobra coiled around her neck. Later that night, Chin-Chin was seen having a late dinner with friends at Portico on M. Adriatico in Malate.

Jolly Jollie finds...

From page A27

makes full use of contemporary issues and characters, while providing a platform for the special effects and spectacular stunts necessary in order to raise the movie to epic levels.

De Bont's style

The franchise benefits from the skills of its new director, Dutch filmmaker Jan De Bont who made "Speed" and "Twister." De Bont knows how to deliver a swashbuckler with flavor and style. He doesn't really do anything new. What he does is to take many of the same elements of the genre and imbue them with a sense of heedless joy to make them work yet again.

De Bont knows perhaps that Hollywood escapist entertainment has become too jaded and cynical as of late (take Terminator Three, for instance), hence the effort to make "Cradle" a popcorn movie in the mold of classic popcorn movies.

"Cradle" may be an imitation of one film or the other (the James Bond and Indiana Jones series immediately come to mind), but it's not a pale imitation.

Great looking

There's no doubt though that the appeal of "Cradle" rests squarely on the slim, sexy shoulders of Jolie. How many people do you think have gone to see the movie based on the attraction to its poster alone, the one that shows Jolie in a wetsuit that clings to those parts of her body that matter most?

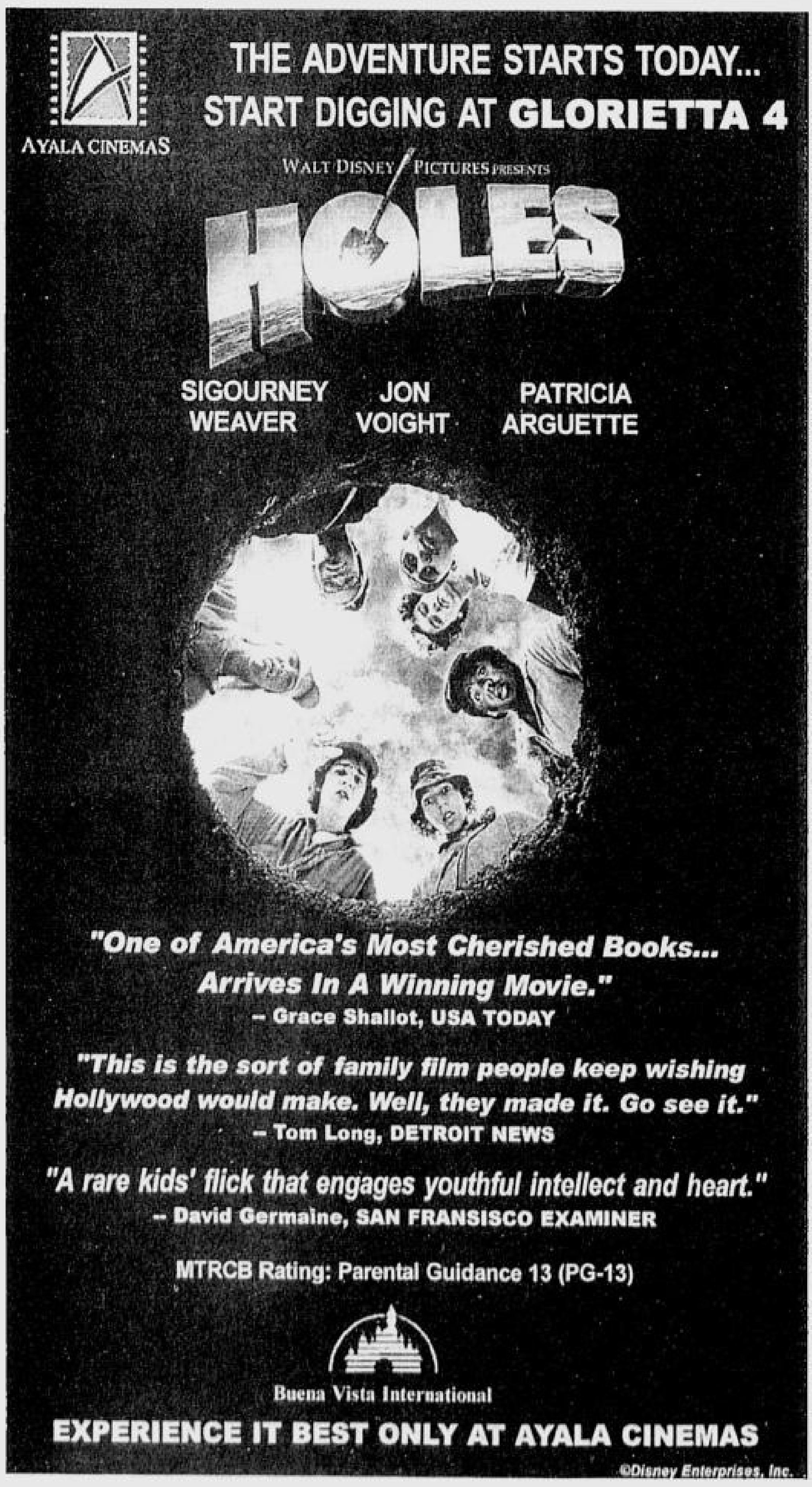
Jolie is indeed great looking, and the fact that she can act (she won a supporting actress Oscar for "Girl, Interrupted") is a bonus. She can convey both feminine and rugged without so much as a word, just a look or a purse of her lips will do. Catlike and sinewy, she's also believable in the fight sequences where she can't use a double. And whether she's treasure hunting, going *mano-a-mano* with baddies or wrestling with her ex-flame (played by Gerard Butler of "Reign of Fire"), Jolie's sex appeal leaps at you like an Axe commercial.

There is this one scene when she beholds Pandora's Box for the first time and wonders, quite like a modern-day Pandora, what it contains. The film bathes the scene in strong basic colors, giving it the aura of one of those comic book pages where you find a pirate standing before a treasure chest shouting, "It's mine! It's mine!"

Jolie's face, though, somewhat glows with a different kind of covetousness.

I tell you, at that moment, I wanted to be the Box.

OPENS TODAY MAGIC 89.9
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
The Father of the Bride is About to Learn the LAWS of Survival.
MICHAEL DOUGLAS ALBERT BROOKS
RYAN REYNOLDS LINDSAY SLOANE
THE IN-LAWS


AYALA CINEMAS
THE ADVENTURE STARTS TODAY...
START DIGGING AT GLORIETTA 4
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS
HOLES
SIGOURNEY WEAVER JON VOIGHT PATRICIA ARGUETTE
"One of America's Most Cherished Books... Arrives In A Winning Movie." -- Grace Shallot, USA TODAY
"This is the sort of family film people keep wishing Hollywood would make. Well, they made it. Go see it." -- Tom Long, DETROIT NEWS
"A rare kids' flick that engages youthful intellect and heart." -- David Germaine, SAN FRANSISCO EXAMINER
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
Buena Vista International
EXPERIENCE IT BEST ONLY AT AYALA CINEMAS
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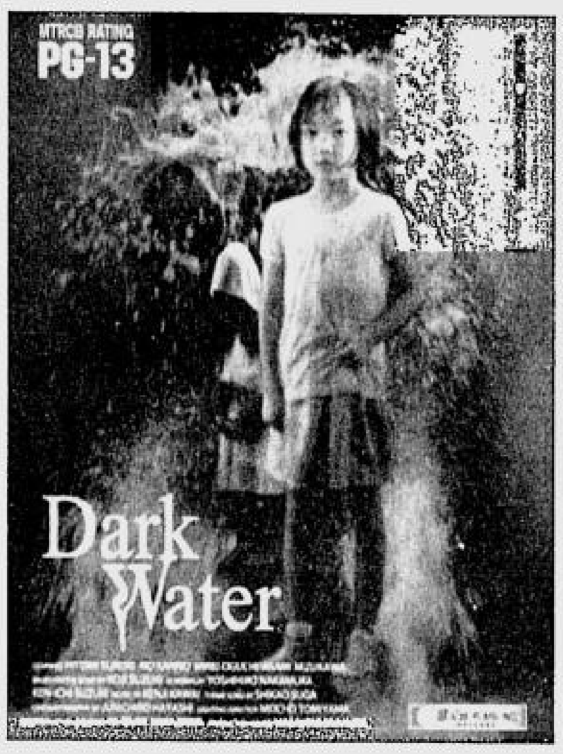
GENERAL PATRONAGE
COMING VERY SOON!
Not since 'THE GODS MUST BE CRAZY' has a South African film enjoyed such success!
Leon Schuster
MR. BONES
Laugh till your bones hurt!


MTRCB RATING PG-13
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The Father of the Bride is About to Lea the LAWS of S
THE IN-LAWS
MTRCB RATING: PG 13
NOKIA CONNECTING PEOPLE Globe Prepaid Paracetamol Neo-Aspilets NISSIN'S YAKISOBA

Jolly Jolie finds Pandora's Box

Tomb Raider sequel has 'idiotic premise'

REVIEW

ANGELINA'S APPEAL, despite the movie's lack of logic, leaps at you like a deodorant commercial, says our smitten reviewer.

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.
Contributor

SO THIS, after all, is where these biological weapons of mass destruction are being hidden. Not in Iraq, but in Africa, contained in a box, not of Saddam's, but of Pandora's of Greek mythology.

The premise of "The Cradle of Life," the second movie in the Tomb Raider franchise, is idiotic to be sure, but with the way Bush and his marginal coalition of the willing have been coming up empty-handed in Iraq, I can't help but find it quite amusing. Besides, Pandora's Box is among the world's more beloved stories, and it's certainly a lot more interesting than those Illuminati who wanted to control time by reuniting the parts of a severed triangle—that, by the way, is the premise of the first Tomb Raider movie, as if you'd want to remember.

As the story goes, the ever-curious Pandora opened the beautiful and valuable box given to her by her maker, Hephestus, thereby releasing into the world all the terrible things like greed, envy, hatred, cruelty, poverty, hunger, sickness, despair and lots more.

But that's "the Sunday school version," according to our heroine Lara Croft (Angelina Jolie), a stunning, noble Englishwoman who is also an accomplished archaeologist and major ass-kicker.

Actually, she says, Pandora's Box, when opened, brought life to earth. Contained within it was also the anti-life, a deadly plague that is capable of wiping out humanity. But thankfully, before the plague could seep out, the box was slammed shut, buried in a hidden place where it's never meant to be found.

Hopeless

I'm not going to bother discussing where the box came from, who found it, opened and closed it or whatever. Perhaps the thing to keep in mind when watching any Tomb Raider film is that finding logic in the premise or plot is a hopeless exercise. Just like the American president's adventurism, there is no method to the madness. You should take the film as seriously as you take the video game on which it is based, and, if you belong to the video game crowd, then maybe you should take it a lot less seriously, if you know what I mean.

I'm not saying "Cradle" is a bad movie. Any movie can be good or bad to anyone depending on the circumstances. If you're looking for human insights and emotional complexity, this may not be the movie for you. You're better off watching real dramas unfold on TV, like desperate soldiers making their last stand right in the heart of the country's financial capital.

However, if you just want to forget about something for a couple of hours and watch something that doesn't make sense but has plenty of rip-roaring action performed by a woman whose face and figure could make a thousand coup plotters lay down their arms, then this is the movie for you.

While the first Tomb Raider movie was tedious, "Cradle" is just plain fun. The screenplay by Dean Georgaris from a story by Steven de Souza and James Hart is a construction of one damn thing on top of another, but it contains the kind of stuff teenage boys like, and the kind of stuff that can make teenage boys out of grown men. Or maybe it's just me.

Harmless re-flavoring

In any case, the story of Pandora's Box, whether factual or fictitious, holds an enduring fascination for a lot of people. Those who are not familiar with it, like the group of adolescent boys sitting right behind me during the screening, are nevertheless intrigued by it.

The re-flavoring of the Greek tale is harmless enough and perfectly sets it along an apocalyptic storyline that

JOLLY/ A26

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Globe-trotting comics learn what jokes work, where, and why

EDINBURGH—Have you heard the one about the Australian, the Canadian, the Irishman and the English woman? Then listen to four comedians who have entertained around the world and have now come to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to tickle funny bones and reflect on what works where and why.

From Dubai to New York, from Hong Kong to Melbourne, they faced the ultimate test in a merciless profession—delivering universal humor.

Australian Brendon Burns, an outrageous mixture of Lenny Bruce and Eminem, has worked in up to 20 countries and revels in the differences.

"In America, they certainly whoop a whole lot more," he told Reuters at the Fringe, hailed by comedians as their Holy Grail. "The British heckle and are more aggressive, which suits my style. I have found the Dutch very polite. They don't laugh until the end. They sit, nod and say 'That is very amusing.' Tell them a joke is coming and they go nuts."

Canadian Jason John Whitehead said of Australian audiences: "They are so friendly. If you fly across the world to entertain them, they want to embrace you."

Adaptability is vital for globe-trotting comedians. "It takes a few sets to know what they like," he said.

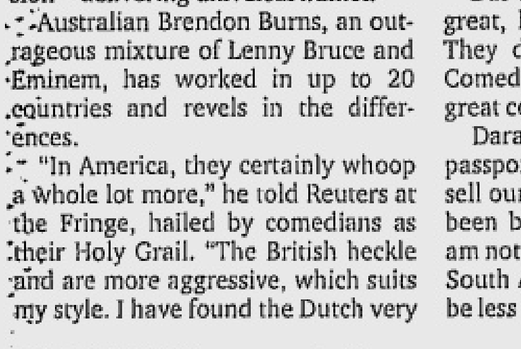
But he adores Edinburgh: "It is a great, happy, jolly, drunken festival. They don't eat you for breakfast." Comedy knocks spots off music as a great communicator.

Dara O'Brian believes his greatest passport to success is being Irish. "We sell our own charm," he said. "I have been blessed with this accent and I am not going to give it up in a hurry. A South African accent would certainly be less sympathetically received."

But he has to adapt. "I speak insanely quickly. I have to slow down when performing in the States so it feels like semaphore in my head." British comic Jo Brand, whose rotundity provides her with a rich vein of size-ist jokes, was intrigued by Transatlantic differences.

"The British like to see others getting it in the neck," said Brand. "There is also a different attitude to success. In Britain we want people to succeed until they do and then we don't like it. In America, the further up the tree, the more you are admired."

She loved playing to Australians but found Americans an uphill climb. "In the Montreal Comedy festival in Canada, a lot of Americans there didn't even seem to know the Gulf war was going on. So I changed my routine back to stuff about my weight and they obviously identified as they do eat quite a lot." *Reuters*



MILES plays Sarsi Emmanuel

Aubrey as Sarsi

SARSI Emmanuelle, the controversial sex siren of the '80s, tells her story on "Maalaala Mo Kaya" where she is played by Aubrey Miles, on ABS CBN tomorrow at 9:30 p.m.

One of the "softdrink beauties" of the late star-maker Dr. Rey de la Cruz, Sarsi (Maria Jennifer Obregon Mitchell) came from a good family in Manila. After her parents broke up during her teens, she began an affair with an older, married man.

She received a best actress nomination for her performance in Tikoy Aguiluz's "The Boatman" and she was in other critical and commercial successes. And then she tried suicide.

Elizabeth Oropeza plays Sarsi's mother, and Dick Israel her discoverer. Malou Sevilla directs from a script by Gilbeys Sardeja.

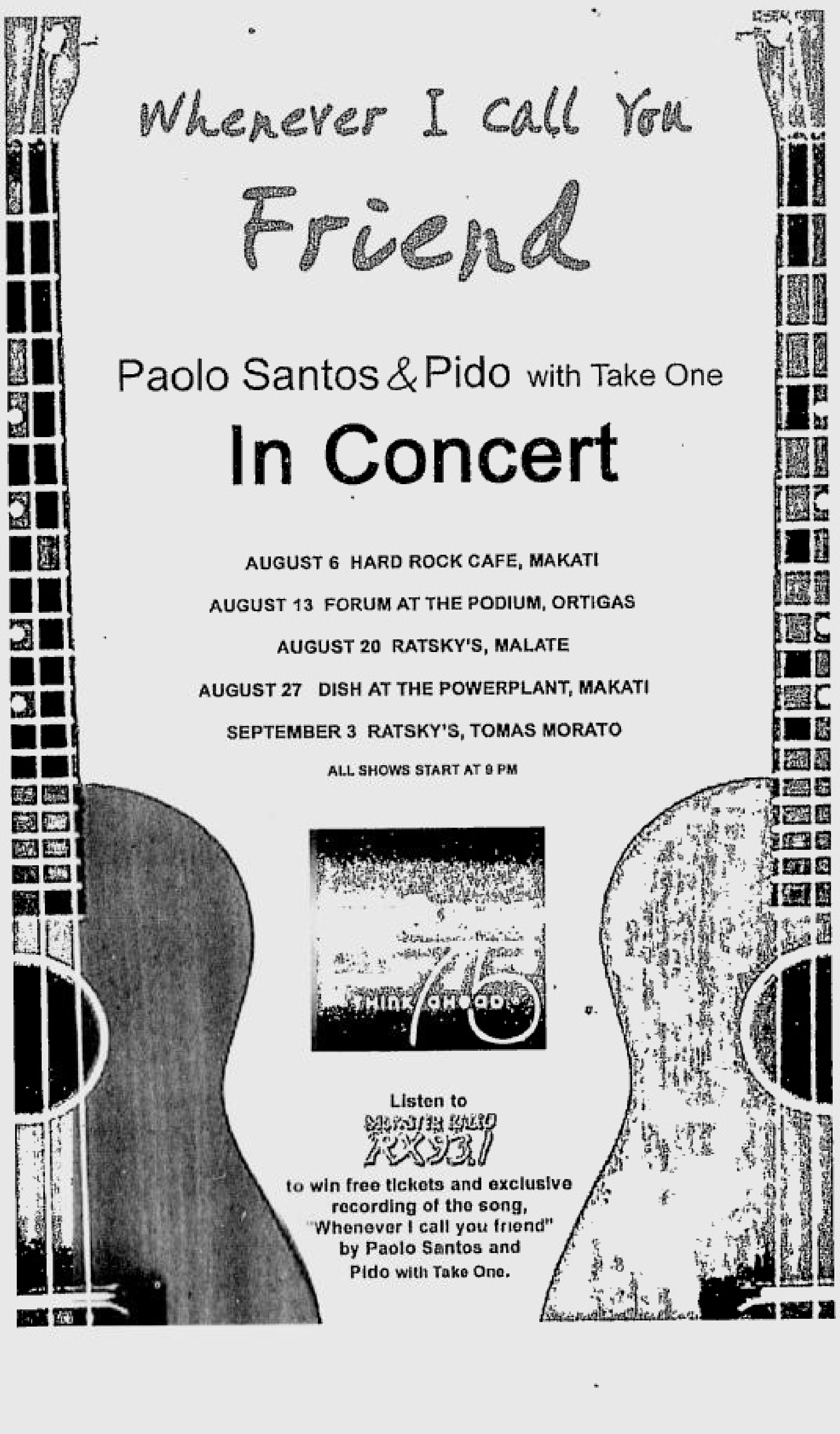
Nora Aunor a nun on 'Magpakailanman'

SUPERSTAR Nora Aunor plays Monica Sison, a nun who gave up everything to teach in a remote, neglected village called Sitio Avocado, in "Silang Inihabilin ng Langit" on tomorrow night's "Magpakailanman" on GMA 7.

The nun would later be honored as Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Considered a "no man's land" because it was the site of rebel hideouts and violent encounters, Sitio Avocado got little government assistance, if at all. It had no potable water, no electricity, little livelihood, and no teachers. Among the Sitio Avocado youths whom Monica persuaded to continue studying were Jen (Sunshine Dizon), who married and became pregnant at an early age, and Amado (Michael Roy Jornales), a boy who hid from his mother and eluded his farm chores to attend Monica's class.

"Magpakailanman" is at 9:30 p.m.


Whenever I call You
Friend
Paolo Santos & Pido with Take One
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AUGUST 6 HARD ROCK CAFE, MAKATI
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AUGUST 20 RATSKY'S, MALATE
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SEPTEMBER 3 RATSKY'S, TOMAS MORATO
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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Louie C. Camino

Help us, producers appeal

By Marinel R. Cruz

A GROUP of movie producers and theater owners last week met with Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) officials to appeal for help while the movie industry is still in a slump.

"It was an informal dialogue," said Movie Producers Distributors Association of the Philippines (MPDAP) president Wilson Tieng.

He said the group appealed to the MTRCB to be more lenient in rating sexy movies, trailers and publicity stills.

"We hope the MTRCB could help producers, especially of sexy movies, earn more without being remiss in its job as a watchdog," said Tieng. He pointed out that the MPDAP is not completely in favor of sexy movies, but "we are aware that these movies are keeping the industry alive nowadays."

MTRCB Chair Consoliza Laguardia said her office has been lenient with movie producers, particularly of sexy movies. She said MTRCB has not banned any local sexy movie since she took over as its chair last March.

"We approve only movies that are done in good taste and have redeeming value," she said, citing Joel Lamangan's "Huling Birhen sa Lupa" as an example. "There were sex scenes in 'Huling Birhen' but they were not at all offensive. We gave it an R-18 rating, no deletions."

The Lamangan movie was the best picture awardee in the 2003 Manila Film Festival. It stars Jay Manalo, Ara Mina and Maui Taylor.

Present in the meeting with Laguardia were Tieng, MPDAP vice president John Suarez, Seiko Films producer Robbie Tan, lawyer Espiridion Laxa and Manny Nuqui of the Philippine Motion Picture Producers Association, and Marcus Ng of the Metro Manila Theaters Association.

LAGUARDIA. No local movie banned since March.
RANDY HORMILLOSA

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Inflation rate eased to 3.3% in July

By Doris C. Dumlao and Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S annual inflation rate softened to 3.3 percent in July from 3.4 percent in June as stabilizing food prices—freed from bottlenecks caused by previous typhoons—offset cost pressures from basic utilities.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that the inflation rate for the food, beverage and tobacco group slid to 2.2 percent in July from 2.7 percent in the previous month, neutralizing the upsurge in the rates for other commodity groups.

But the index for housing and repairs rose to 3 percent from 2.6 percent; fuel, light and water, to 9.9 percent from 7.8 percent; services, to 5.9 percent from 5.7 percent, and miscellaneous items, to 1.9 percent from 1.8 percent.

Meanwhile, the inflation rate for clothing remained at the 2.3 percent posted in the previous month.

The slowdown in the July inflation rate, which measures the rate of increase in the consumer price index, was largely influenced by slower rates in the food basket, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

"With the effects of the previous month's typhoons waning, better food prices were available in the markets," Neri said in a statement.

For July, the inflation rate in Metro Manila declined by 0.5 percentage point to 4 percent while that for the provinces slightly increased to 3.1 percent in July from 3 percent in June.

The national inflation rate of 3.3 percent stood at the lower end of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' expectation of 3.3-3.6 percent range for the month.

"Government remains on track in meeting its 4.5 to 5.5 percent target for the year," Neri said.

The slowdown in inflation was also consistent with the recent monetary easing of the BSP, which last month slashed its key overnight interest rates by 25 basis points to 11-year lows of 6.75 percent for borrowing and 9 percent for lending.

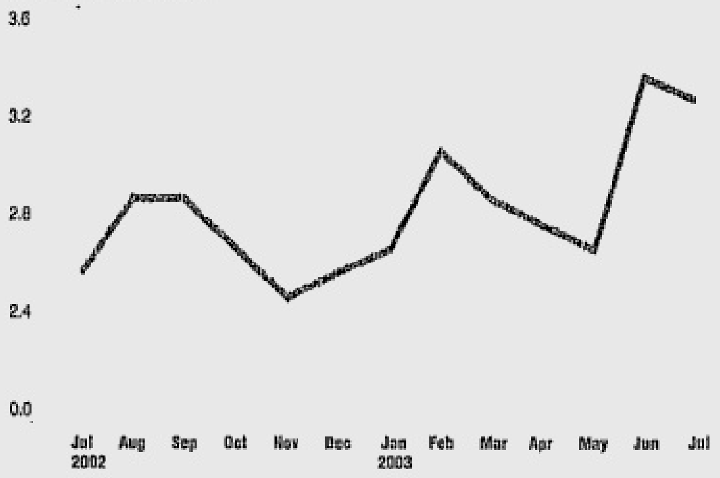
Yesterday, the BSP yesterday said the stable inflation rate in July would allow monetary authorities to keep overnight rates steady amid caution that excessive policy easing could push prices higher in the coming months.

"The 3.3 percent July inflation is within the range of the central bank's expectations. This does not indicate a need to alter our monetary policy stance," said BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr.

The Monetary Board said in a press statement that demand and supply conditions continued to suggest that consumer prices would remain benign.

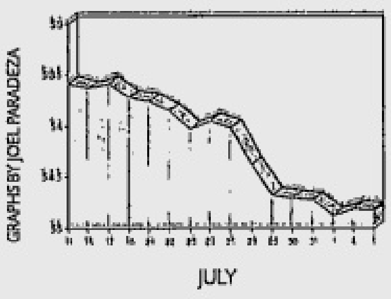
INFLATION RATES

July 2002 to July 2003



INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY JOEL PARADEZA

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 54.815 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 4, 2003

Y 120.52 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 5, 2003

GOLD: $350.50-351.00

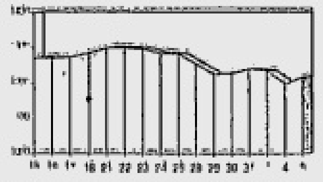
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug.5, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks close 1.65% higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

JULY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 1.65 percent higher yesterday on a technical rebound after falling through the key 1,200-support level Monday on continuing political concerns, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 19.76 points to 1,217.95 after trading between 1,199.48 and 1,220.68 points.

Volume was 469.36 million shares worth P450.68 million from 707.96 million shares worth P405.73 million on Monday.

Gainers led losers 59 to 13, with 24 stocks unchanged.

"Investors felt prices are too low and a number of stocks are technically oversold and ripe for trading opportunities," said Lawrence de Leon of Accord Capital Equities.

Positive economic news—a rise in exports in June and slower inflation in July—also helped support the market, which is still reeling from the short-lived military mutiny on July 27 by renegade soldiers who had demanded the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We (saw) bargain-hunters in the market following the slump in recent days. I guess investors are taking into consideration the positive economic indicators," said Elena Ponceca of Unicapital Securities.

The all-shares index rose 3.90 points to 761.85 while the the commercial-industrial index was up 14.77 to 1,734.15. Property gained 18.56 to 550.80 but the mining sector dropped 1.08 to 1,131.15. The oil sector was up 0.02 to 1.34 while banking and financial services rose 11.94 to 439.14.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. gained P15 to P515 while Ayala Land Inc. rose 20 centavos to P6.30.

Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and Ayala Corp. were both unchanged at P29 and P4.50, respectively. *AFP*

Ayala, partner to buy 20% of German's stake in Globe

By Doris C. Dumlao

AYALA Corp. and Singapore Telecom International Pte. Ltd. plan to increase their stakes in leading mobile provider Globe Telecom by offering to buy 20 percent out of the 24.8-percent stake held by their debt-strapped partner Deutsche Telekom.

Industry sources privy to the negotiations disclosed to the INQUIRER that the Ayala group and SingTel—which were given 45 days to evaluate an offer from Deutsche Telekom to sell its entire 24.8-percent in Globe—have submitted the joint counter-offer to the German firm.

As Ayala and SingTel respectively own 32.7-percent and 29.1-percent of Globe Telecom, the counter-offer will allow them to raise their interest to 42.7 percent and 39.1 percent.

The sources did not say what would happen to the remaining 4.8-percent stake to be held by Deutsche Telekom in Globe Telecom. Stock analysts, however, expected it to be offered to the public, thereby enhancing the liquidity of Globe Telecom in the local market. Another possibility was for profitable Globe Telecom itself to buy the block and keep these as treasury shares.

The acquisition of the additional 20-percent stake in Globe Telecom will likely cost Ayala and SingTel a combined $400-$500 million or equivalent to about $200-$250 million each, based on analysts' estimates.

Other sources privy to the deal said Deutsche Telekom was willing to sell for about P700 per share, based on its original offer. The sources did not disclose at what price Ayala and SingTel were willing to buy the shares.

As of yesterday, Globe Telecom shares closed at P640 each at the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Of the total stake held by Deutsche Telekom, an estimated 12 percent is held directly in the form of common shares while the balance is owned through Asiacom—joint venture that is 60-percent owned by Ayala, 20 percent by SingTel, and 20 percent by the German firm.

Deutsche Telekom is pulling out of Asia to reduce its 56.3 billion euros worth of debts, bulk of which were accumulated during a global expansion binge at the peak of the telecommunications boom.

Last June, it sold its 6-percent stake in Malaysian cellular operator Celcom for $114 million. It likewise unloaded its 25-percent stake in Indonesia's second largest mobile firm, Satelindo, for $325 million last May.

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Opel Astra	SRP	50% DP	12 mos.	18 mos.	24 mos.	36 mos.
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1.6L Sedan Club AT	₱ 899,000	₱ 449,500	₱ 37,459	₱ 24,973	₱ 18,730	₱ 12,487
1.6L Wagon Club MT	₱ 918,000	₱ 459,000	₱ 38,251	₱ 25,501	₱ 19,126	₱ 12,751
1.6L Wagon Club AT	₱ 968,000	₱ 484,000	₱ 40,334	₱ 26,889	₱ 20,167	₱ 13,445

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₱ 150,000	₱ 31,840	₱ 22,777
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₱ 150,000	₱ 34,503	₱ 24,682

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Camacho conundrum

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

OFFICIALLY, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has not handed in any resignation.

Privately, the former Bankers Trust/Deutsche Bank country manager has made it known that he wants out of the GMA Cabinet and, having done his share of government service, wants to leave the P40,000-a-month job altogether.

Apparently, it is Camacho's wife, Kim, who has been begging her husband to leave the hardship assignment because of the financial sacrifice and the incessant sniping the couple feel they undeservedly get from the media and the opposition.

In the end, according to the grapevine, it is up to President Macapagal-Arroyo to determine the timing of the Camacho departure; it is even possible she may ultimately prevail on him to stay on until the end of GMA's term.

In any case, two names have lately been submitted to Malacañang by at least one leading business group should the putative departure of Camacho push through.

For his part, Petron chair Nicasio Alcantara said that although he is a Malacañang nominee, he is not party to any "search committee" tasked to find a new finance secretary as was reported here Monday.

What is going for Camacho now is that the bureaus of customs and of internal revenue have finally been delivering their revenue targets, fired in no small part by the ongoing lifestyle check in those two crucial offices, according to Camacho's chief of staff, Inocencio Ferrer.

(Ferrer wishes to clarify that he is an Ilonggo from Antique and not related to Camacho's wife.)

And the crucial excise tax measure, designed to plug the automotive loophole and bring in billions of pesos to the cash-strapped Treasury, has been painstakingly shepherded through Congress and is now undergoing its final revision at the bicameral committee.

"But, in the end, it is really up to the President (whether we stay on or not)," Ferrer said.

Local CR-V quality

THE US government is recalling almost a quarter of a million US-made Honda CR-Vs "to fix transmissions that may allow the vehicle to roll when parked."

The recall order covers 2002 and 2003 models sold in the United States and Canada, according to the US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The good news is that the local Honda CR-Vs are not covered by the recall, a testament to the level of quality of Filipino workers who assemble the hot-selling AUVs in Santa Rosa, Laguna, according to Honda spokesman Arnel Doria.

According to the grapevine, after the best-seller CR-V the local Honda is considering introducing the Element, the boxy, versatile van that is generating quite a buzz in the United States, but that any decision will have to wait until after excise tax issue clears up in Congress.

Tormenting Ninez

WE do not know what kind of legal advice Ninez Cacho-Olivares is getting, but it looks like the columnist-publisher could use better representation.

Olivares was quoted in yesterday's INQUIRER that she was informed as early as Thursday that the Department of Justice had found probable cause against her in the two libel complaints filed by the Villaraza & Angangco law firm.

The following day, Friday, the warrants for her arrest had been issued, quite a record for a judiciary noted for delays and postponements. And very early on Monday morning, a team of Manila policemen served the warrants right in her Parañaque home, before Olivares could even take her first cup of coffee.

By Villaraza & Angangco's press statement yesterday, "19 libel cases (are) already in court," which means that in addition to the two already served and for which Olivares had already posted bail, 17 warrants are still poised and ready to be served.

Knowing that their client is up against The Firm, the Olivares lawyer(s) should have posted bail as early as Friday, and the additional bail for the 17 remaining arrest warrants as well.

If Olivares has to continue with her role, she has to be kept out of the slammer.

And if it is true that the newspaperwoman could hardly scrape the bail money to cover even for the first two charges, it is incumbent upon whomever business or political group that leaked those alleged documents/tape recordings to Olivares to pony up the funds for her freedom.

After all, they helped incite the GMA critic through her current predicament.

Heard through the grapevine

THE WELL-WIRED but low-key BFE financial/management consulting firm in Salcedo Village's Shell House has had to change door locks after the wife of a partner, accompanied by her sister, raided the senior partner's room one recent Saturday and riffled through her husband's documents.

If you want the blow-by-blow details, the person to ask is Ernest Lagdameo, who by chance happened to be the lone BFE executive who was in the office that eventful morning.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Ayala Land profit up 3% to ₱1.1B in 1st 6 months

By Doris C. Dumlao

PREMIER property developer Ayala Land Inc. posted a 3-percent growth in net profit in the first semester of the year to P1.1 billion from a year ago on the back of higher revenues from leasing operations and land sales.

In a statement yesterday, ALI said its consolidated revenues for the first half expanded by 23 percent to P6.45 billion from last year against a backdrop of the continued slowdown in local interest rates.

Leasing operations continued to be the biggest revenue driver, accounting for P1.79 billion or 28 percent of total, boosted by earnings from Greenbelt 2 and 3 as well as a 5-12 percent increase in Ayala Center's basic rental rates. The Greenbelt mall maintained a high occupancy rate of 96 percent even with its continuing expansion, the company said.

"Additional leasable area will come on stream when Greenbelt 4 opens in the fourth quarter of this year," ALI said.

Residential units for lease at One Roxas Triangle and at the 28-unit The Residences at Greenbelt likewise contributed to rental revenues.

Meanwhile, ALI noted that office leasing contribution was fairly steady as its office buildings maintained high occupancy rates averaging 95 percent.

CURRENCIES

August 5, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.880204	1.000000	54.820000
Japan	Yen	0.007314	0.008310	0.455600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.418097	1.611100	88.320500
Hongkong	Dollar	0.112862	0.128223	7.029200
Switzerland	Franc	0.653406	0.742335	40.694800
Canada	Dollar	0.627060	0.712403	39.053900
Singapore	Dollar	0.500031	0.568085	31.142400
Australia	Dollar	0.570007	0.647585	35.500600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.334883	2.652661	145.418900
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.234721	0.266667	14.618700
Brunei	Dollar	0.498615	0.566476	31.054200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000118	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020988	0.023844	1.307100
UAE	Dirham	0.239655	0.272272	14.926000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.136100	62.281000
Argentina	Peso	0.296865	0.337268	18.489000
Brazil	Real	0.285040	0.323834	17.752600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134546	0.152858	8.379700
India	Rupee	0.019115	0.021716	1.190500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.231664	0.263193	14.428200
Mexico	New Peso	0.082246	0.093440	5.122400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.513059	0.582886	31.953800
Norway	Kroner	0.121981	0.138583	7.597100
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015294	0.017376	0.952600
South Africa	Rand	0.118039	0.134104	7.351600
Korea	Won	0.000746	0.000847	0.046400
Sweden	Kroner	0.108216	0.122944	6.739800
Syria	Pound	0.020958	0.023810	1.305300
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025610	0.029095	1.595000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000552	0.000627	0.034400

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Aug. 5, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18 25	16,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43.5	45.5	43.5	45.5	340,700
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	34	33	34	105,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29	30	29	29	1,523,700
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.75	24.75	25,000
Security Bank Corp..	17.5	18	17.5	17.75	160,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	22 75	23 25	22.75	23.25	64,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	306,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	11,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1580	1580	1580	170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.3	1.3	116,000
Sun Life Financial Inc	1130	1140	1130	1135	610
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	20	20	19.75	19.75	24,100
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.62	0.66	0.62	0.65	2,870,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	650	640	640	22,560
Island Info And Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.055	0.0525	0.055	4,000,000
ISM Communications Corp..	0.045	0.047	0.045	0.046	58,500,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp..	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.52	4,650 000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	500	515	500	515	183,970
Ivantage Corp.	0.39	0 39	0.39	0.39	40,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0 014	0.013	0.014	70,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.5	11.25	10.5	11.25	568,100
Manila Electric Co. B	16.5	17.25	16	17	2,001,800
Petron Corp..	2.02	2.02	1.96	1.98	4,872,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1 62	1 62	1 62	1.62	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2 75	2 75	2 65	2 75	4,842,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	50,000
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.17	0 18	0.17	0.18	400,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	295,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	26,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17 25	17.25	17.25	17.25	9,200
RFM Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	10,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	870,000
San Miguel Corp. A	52	52	51.5	52	69,800
San Miguel Corp B	61.5	62	61.5	62	262,700
Universal Robina Corp.	5.9	6	5.9	6	685,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.25	0 25	0.25	0.25	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.5	4 55	4.5	4.5	6,612,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	80,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.035	0.038	1,700,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.78	1.8	105,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.62	0.53	0.6	36,490,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	500,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.185	0.185	320,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.085	0.085	0.08	0.08	600,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0 31	0.25	0.3	2,380,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.044	0.044	0.044	0.044	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	14.25	15.5	14.25	15.25	1,818,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.28	0.28	0 28	0.28	50,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.12	2,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.34	1.48	1.34	1.46	1,473,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.78	2,095,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.73	0.7	0.73	2,060,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.245	0.28	0.245	0.27	7,050,000
Music Corp.	0.35	0.37	0.35	0 37	4,070,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.205	0.17	0.205	3,980,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.1	0.16	0.1	0.145	5,010,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.5	0.54	0.5	0.52	90,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0 35	0 39	0 35	0 39	510,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.9	1	0.9	1	180,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.5	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	1,100,000
Philippine Seven Corp.	2 8	2 8	2 8	2.8	486,000
SPI Technologies Inc	16	16 25	16	16	25,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.54	0 54	0 54	0.54	800,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0 45	0 47	0 45	0.47	330,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr)	20	20	20	20	492,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10 5	10.5	10.5	400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6 5	6.2	6.3	8,062,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.22	0 22	0.215	0.215	290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.18	0.185	0.18	0.185	1,990,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0 235	0.22	0.235	4,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.97	0.98	9,580,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0 18	0.21	0.18	0.21	11,410,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	1,340,000
SM Development Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	6	5.9	6	464,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	85,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.185	0 185	0 185	0.185	20,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	2,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0034	0.0032	0.0034	25,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0 26	0 26	0.26	500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.003	0 003	0.003	0.003	12,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0 003	0.0028	0.003	42,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	30,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0 21	40,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.028	0.032	0.028	0.032	1 700,000
South China Resources Inc.	0 29	0 29	0.29	0.29	60,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc ..	2 669 980	70,414 030 00
Comm'l & Ind'l.	238,250,030	311,267,460 00
PRO	38,216,000	67,936,450 00
Mining.	112,830,000	633 500 00
OIL	76,830,000	320,800 00
GRAND TOTALS :	468 796 010	450,572,240 00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc ..	439 14	UP 11 94
Comm'l & Ind'l .	1,734 15	UP 14 77
PRO	550 80	UP 18 56
Mining..	1,131 15	DOWN 1.08
OIL	1 34	UP 0 02
SME	100.00	UNCH 0 00
All Shares Index	761.85	UP 3 90
Composite	1,217.95	UP 19 76

NO OF ADVANCES 59; NO OF DECLINES: 13; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 24; NO OF TRADED ISSUES 96; NO. OF TRADES 2,499

INTEREST RATES

August 5, 2003- MART1 Rates Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 5-Aug-03	MART1 4-Aug-03
1 Month	6.2596	6.3339
3 Months	6.2333	6.2982
6 Months	7.2167	7.275
1 Year	8.5183	8.3903
2 Years	9.935	10.07
3 Years	10.75	10.8617
4 Years	11.1464	11.175
5 Years	11.335	11.43
7 Years	11.8227	11.9467
10 Years	12.0567	12.1117
20 Years	12.39	12.2714
25 Years	12.69	12.6321

SOURCE : MART/BLOOMBERG

DISCLOSURES

DMCI Holdings Inc. changed the venue of its annual stockholders' meeting to the Fairways Function Room of Manila Golf and Country Club, Makati City.

* * *

MEDCO Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22, 10 a.m. at the Fontain Room of Mandarin Oriental, Makati City. Only stockholders as of July 23 are entitled to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MAGNUM Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to Sept. 4, 3 p.m. at Unit 3C Cypress Gardens Condominium, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

* * *

ALLIANCE Global Group Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 29, 9 a.m. at the Richmonde Hotel, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Only stockholders as of July 9 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

BACNOTAN Consolidated Industries Inc. sold 47.8 million of its shares in United Pulp and Paper Co. Inc. for P5 each to The Siam Pulp and Paper Public Co. Ltd. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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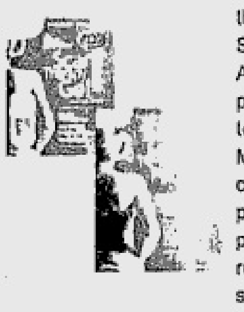

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)		1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	650,000	700,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"		70,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"		80,000
Camp John Hay	200,000	220,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	100,000	150,000
Capitol Hills	150,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	1,700,000
Celebrity Sports Club	165,000	200,000
Club Filipino	Please Call	175,000
Evercrest "A"		80,000
Forest Hills "A"		180,000
Forest Hills "B"		200,000
Forest Hills "C"	210,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	210,000	250,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,100,000	10,600,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,350,000
Manila Southwoods "A"		550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"		600,000
Manila Yacht Club		500,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	90,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	90,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	210,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	50,000	-
Montemar (Corporate)	70,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"		230,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul		100,000
Quezon City Sports Club		200,000
Rockwell		380,000
Royale Tagaytay "A"		Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"		80,000
Sherwood Hills "B"		130,000
Sherwood Hills "C"		170,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,350,000	*Please Call
Sta. Elena "B"	1,400,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)		120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	780,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	750,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	140,000
Valley Golf	Please Call	300,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,100,000

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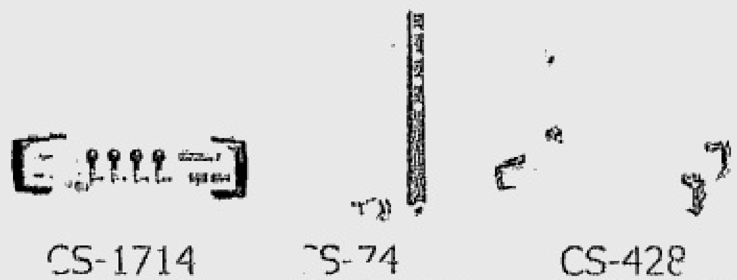

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Malampaya to export condensate

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE MALAMPAYA group is exporting 2 million barrels of condensate this year, which is estimated to generate about $50 million (about P2.7 billion) in revenue, a consortium official said.

Condensate is the liquid stuff that comes with natural gas, which is used as replacement fuel for power plants that run on natural gas or as raw material for making resins.

Experts describe condensate as a lighter kind of crude that, when refined, can also produce gasoline, diesel and kerosene. There are also facilities that can use unrefined condensate for fuel.

Jeremy Cliff, managing director of Shell Philipines Exploration BV or Spex (operator of the Malampaya project), said in an interview that the estimate was based on current crude oil prices.

"At current crude prices,' a barrel of condensate would fetch $25 in the spot market," Cliff said. "But (crude prices fluctuate and) I don't know how this would behave for the rest of the year."

Government monitoring showed that Dubai crude prices averaged at $26.72 per barrel in July. Month-to-date average was $27.25 a barrel.

Cliff said that after subtracting costs from the gross revenues, 60 percent of the net proceeds would go to the government as royalties and 40 percent would go to the investors as profit.

Spex and ChevronTexaco have a 45-percent stake each in Malampaya while state-run PNOC Exploration Corp. holds 10 percent.

Cliff said the bulk of Malampaya's condensate exports would go to refineries in Singapore while the rest would be shipped to Thailand.

"Malampaya's condensate is a special kind and it requires refineries more sophisticated than what we have here in the country, and these are what they have in Singapore and Thailand," Cliff explained.

He said this was also why Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. was looking at ways by which Malampaya condensate can be used locally.

Cliff added that since Malampaya started natural gas production in 2001, the consortium had exported about 5.5 million barrels of condensate.

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P500,001 - P5,000,000	6.125%	6.375%	6.625%
P5,000,001 and above	6.375%	6.625%	6.875%
DOLLAR TIME DEPOSIT			
$ 1,000 - $10,000	1.250%	1.250%	1.250%
$ 10,001 - $100,000	1.625%	1.625%	1.625%
$ 100,001 - $500,000	2.500%	2.500%	2.500%
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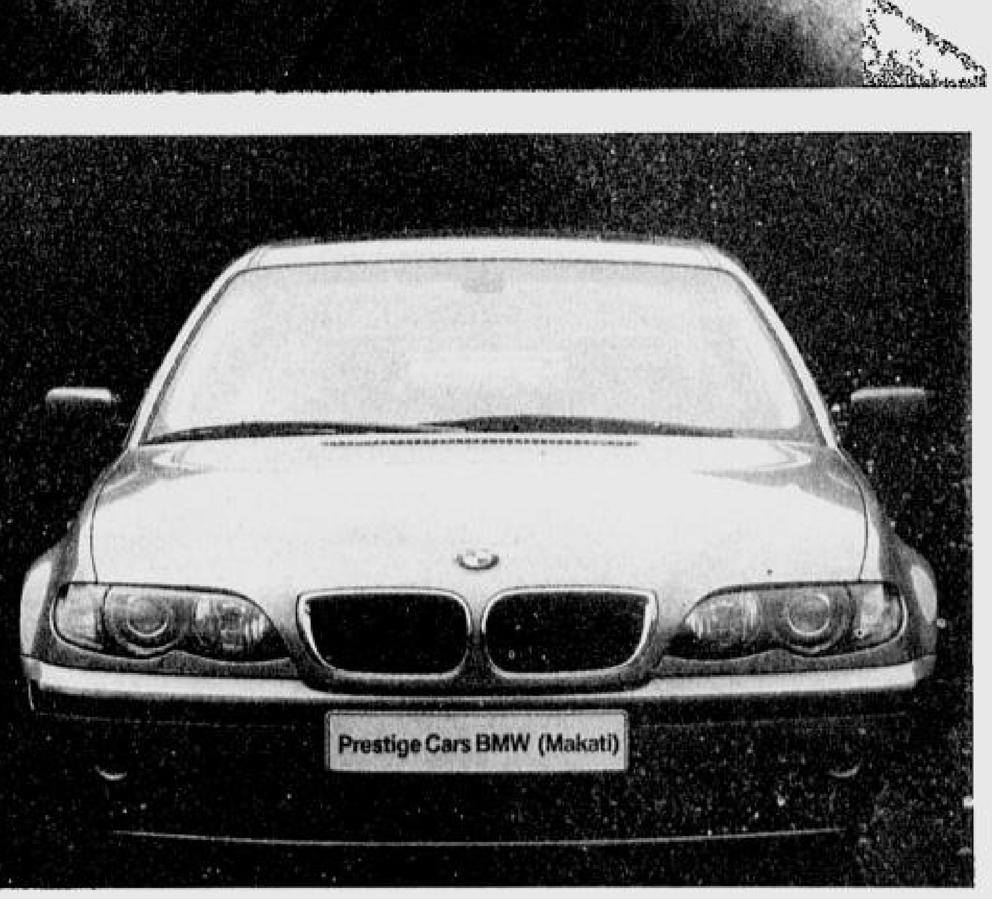

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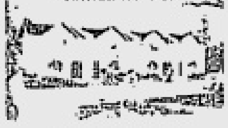

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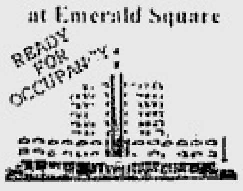

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Logistic Manager & Asst. Logistic Manager	25-32 years old (M)	College graduate with 2 years related experience in manufacturing set-up. Broad exposure in area of trucking and scheduling preferably in packaging products from Japanese company. Pro-active, willing to work long hours, good moral character & team player. Knowledge in ISO is an advantage.
Customer-in-Charge Assistant Manager	24-30 years old (F)	College graduate with at least 3 years experience in handling & supervising smooth and timely deliveries. High commitment in attainment of quality service. Can work long hours and under pressure.
Accounting Staff	20-30 years old (F)	Accounting graduate with experience in manufacturing company Familiar in accounting computerized system of AR/AP/Bank Recon/PCV. Can work long hours and under pressure.
Company Drivers	25-35 years old	At least college level with valid driver's license. Min. 3 years experience on same field. Willing to work long hours and under pressure Neat, presentable, good moral character Can able to communicate well in English. Good moral character
Truck Drivers	25-35 years old (M)	At least college level with valid driver's license. Min. 2 years experience on same field. Willing to work long hours and under pressure Neat, presentable, good moral character. Can able to communicate well in English. Good moral character.

We offer good salary package, excellent advancement and growth for the successful candidates.
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER TRNG 5271590

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion Meyc. Bulacan will auction unredeemed pledges of Feb 03 on Aug. 21 03 10a[illegible] [illegible]s-Auctioneer [illegible]

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of late MAXIMO PUYAT JR. was extrajudicially settled among the heirs as per Doc.366 Page 82 BookXXXIII Series 2000 before Notary Public Regalado P. Castillo of Quezon City.
PDI- July 23,30 & Aug 6 2003

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the extrajudicial settlement by the heirs of Corazon Carillo Gaang who died intestate on July 16, 1998 in Quezon City, MM registered in the Notarial Registry of N.P. Ana Garcia of San Juan, M.M. as Doc. No. 252, Page No 52, Book No. 54, Series of 2003 on July 30, 2003 in compliance with the rules of court of the Phils. (PDI-Aug 6, 13 & 20 2003)

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of CLAUDIO F. HACHERO and late ANNIEA HACHERO has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc.#2567 Series of 2003 Service #2567 under Consul General Jocelyn Batoon Garcia of Philippine Consular Service Washington District of Columbia USA 16th day of July 2003
(PDI-July 23, 20 & Aug. 6, 2003)

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **ASIAN TERMINALS, INC.** with office address at **South Harbor, Port Area, Manila** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as **New Operator of Domestic Passenger Terminal and Container Yard** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **July 23, 2003** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 23rd day of July 2003.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO C. CHAVEZ**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Prequalification, Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-PBAC) is inviting qualified healthcare providers to apply for eligibility and bid for the Department's Healthcare Contract for 2003-2004.

All interested healthcare providers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (Php500.00) starting July 30 – August 13, 2003 at the DFA-PBAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Flr., DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, (#834-4066). Application for eligibility shall be evaluated using the "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only the companies prequalified by DFA-PBAC shall be allowed to submit bids.

DFA-PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, to waive any deficiencies and required formalities embodied therein. DFA-PBAC assumes no obligation whatsoever to offset the expenses or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-PBAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not to award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs
Chairman, DFA-PBAC

(PDI–July 30 & Aug. 6, 2003)

Office of the President
Republic of the Philippines
CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Clark Special Economic Zone, Pampanga

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Clark Development Corporation (CDC) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers for the here under listed project:

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSIONING OF SKID STEER LOADER EQUIPMENT"

Interested parties may submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and Eligibility Form for bidding not later than August 11, 2003 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) at the Office of BAC Secretariat, 3rd Flr., Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino Ave., CSEZ, Pampanga. Interested suppliers of the company are hereby required to submit the accomplished Eligibility Statement upon submission of LOI. The requirements are as follows:

a) DTI/SEC registration, Mayor's permit/ Municipal License, Tax Payer Identification Number;
b) Certified copy of latest audited financial statement as reflected by the BIR;
c) Certificate of Exclusive Distributorship for the equipment;
d) Certified list of clients with the same equipment supplied for the last three (3) years.

Issuance of Eligibility Form will be on July 30 to August 08, 2003 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at BAC Secretariat, 3rd Flr., Bldg. 2127 upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,000.00.

The Approved Budget for the Project to be Bid is (Php 1.30 M).

Only those who are eligible for the said project shall be invited and notified for the schedule of pre-bid and bidding conferences. Bid/Tender Documents are available for issuance to eligible suppliers at the above-cited address upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000.00).

CDC reserves the right to reject any or all applications on all bids without offering any reasons, waive any formality, informality and/or defect and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government, nor does CDC guarantee that an award will be made.

Submission and operating of bids shall be announced in the Notice to Eligible Bidders.

All inquiries and letters shall be addressed to:

The BAC Secretariat
Clark Development Corporation
3rd Floor, Bldg. 2127, E. Quirino Avenue, CSEZ, Pampanga

(Sgd.) ROMEO N. DYOCO, JR.
BAC Chairman
Clark Development Corporation

(PDI – July 30 & August 6, 2003)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City Tel. no. 928-4501 to 09
Cable Address: "Philcoa" P.O. Box 3386, Manila, TIN# 000724616

NOTICE OF SALE

"As Is, Where Is"

There will be a re-bidding on the auction sales of the hereunder fertilizers aggregated into one (1) lot at the Philippine Coconut Authority, Diliman, Quezon City on August 21, 2003.

Types of Fertilizers		Quantity/No. of Bags	
Ammonium Sulfate	(AS)	30,380 bags	One Lot
Potassium Chloride	(KCl)	11,400 "	
Superphosphate	(SP)	23,780	
Salt	(NaCl)	7,970	
Dolomite	(Dol)	4,040	
Total		77,570 bags more or less	

Said fertilizers are available for inspection at the PCA Regional Office in Lucena City and warehouse in Tiaong, Quezon during office hours.

Sealed bids on an "As Is, Where Is" basis in the prescribed form shall be received together with their Stand-by Bidder's Bond equivalent to ten Percent (10%) of the total bid amount in Cash, Manager's Check, or Cashier's Check until 2:00 PM on the abovementioned date at the Executive Lounge, 8th floor, R & D Building Philippine Coconut Authority, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

For interested parties, bid documents can be secured at the Procurement Operations Division, 2nd Floor, R & D Bldg. For more details, please contact telephone no. 927-84-28 or 924-47-61.

Pre-bid Conference — August 15, 2003 (Friday) at 2:00 PM
Registration Fee — Php 2,000.00 (non-refundable)
Bid Bond — 10% of Bid Price

(Sgd.) DENNIS J. CALUB
Chairman, Committee on Appraisal and Auction of Undelivered SCFDP Fertilizers

(PDI – Aug. 6, 7 & 8, 2003)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
COTABATO CITY WATER DISTRICT
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DIRECT SUPPLIERS ONLY)

The Cotabato City Water District invites interested parties to submit sealed bids for the public bidding of supply, delivery and installation of one (1) Unit – FLOAT CONTROL VALVE, "brandnew" Class 250, Flanged Type, Y-pattern, Double Chambered Diaphragm Actuated Hydraulically Operated 14" diameter, with approved budget of Php 600,000.00 per Board Resolution No. 023-03 dated **July 05, 2003.**

Interested parties may secure bid documents and the checklist of the qualification requirements from Cotabato City Water District.

The schedule of the bidding activities is as follows:

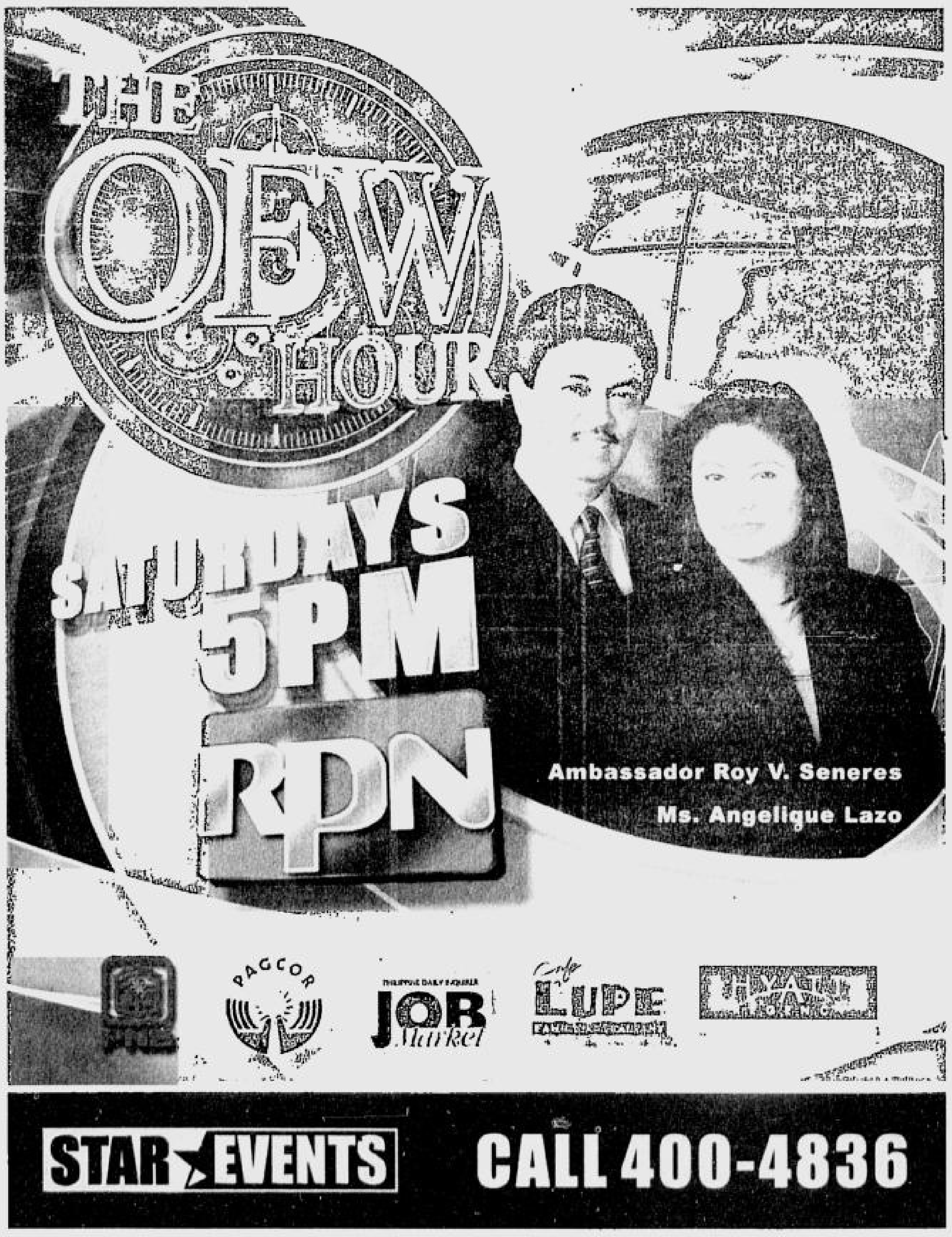
PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Aug. 14, to Aug. 20, 2003/8.00 a.m.-5 p.m
Opening/Submission of Bids	August 27, 2003, Wed./ 10:00 a.m.

Bidders shall submit two (2) sealed envelopes containing a) TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS (e.g. qualification requirements indicated in the checklist, bid security as to form, amount and validity period, authority of signatory, after sales service/parts, catalogues/brochures/other literatures, etc.) and b) FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS at the Cotabato City Water District.

The CCWD reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the CCWD. The CCWD likewise assumes no obligation for whatever losses that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that the award shall be made.

(Sgd.) MANUEL D. MAGDAEL
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – August 6 & 13, 2003)



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2003

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Day before publication

The Board of Directors, Officers and Employees of Digital Telecommunications Phils., Inc.

Express deep sorrow for the demise of their beloved
Vice Chairman of the Board & Founder

MR. EDUARDO M. VILLANUEVA

who passed away on the 4th of August, 2003

His remains lie in state at Santuario de San Antonio Church
(Forbes Park, Makati City)

Interment will follow after the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, August 9, 2003
at Santuario de San Antonio Church, Forbes Park, Makati City.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to Our Lady of Angels Seminary.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."
John 11:25-26

ATTY. EUGENIO V. GUILLERMO

peacefully joined his Creator on August 3, 2003
at the age of 87.

His loving wife **Lourdes** (†); children **Fil & Erlinda** (†) **Paras, Stan & Priscilla Cabanatan**, grandchildren **Patty, Argene, Melissa, Eric, Tinky & Noel**; dear relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment will be today, August 6, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

DEATH NOTICES

ATTY. FELIX ABRANTES NEPOMUCENO

of Donsol, Sorsogon & Quezon City

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 4, 2003 at the age of 69.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, 09 August 2003 after the 9:00 a.m. mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Bulacan.

DR. JULITA MAPALAD DE GUZMAN

Joined her Creator on July 26, 2003 at the age of 58.

Her remains lie in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on August 10, 2003 at Loyola Memorial Cemetery, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

GILBERT S. DUFF

Born: August 5, 1936,
Died: August 1, 2003

His wife **Lolita** (deceased); children **Engelbert, Herbert & Florence**; grandchildren **Harriet & Herbert Jr.**; brothers **Amor** (†), **Rod** (†), **James** (†), **George** (†), **Fred & John**; sister **Vergie Duff Santos**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santo Niño Parish Church in Pandacan, Manila.

Interment will be on August 8, 2003 at 1:00 p.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

JAIME S. JAVIER

Retiree of UAP/
United Laboratories, Inc.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on August 4, 2003 at the age of 76. His body lies in state at the Chapel Venice, Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be announced later.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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Tels 2812963 2813034 2810522
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MARIAN MEMORIAL CHAPELS
Marcos [illegible] Antipolo Rizal Tels 645-1855 682-[illegible]
MARCELO FUNERAL HOMES
74-M Naval Street Tangos Navotas Metro Manila Tel [illegible]
MT. SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL
Arellano St. Dagupan City Tels (075) 515-5960 522-8783
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POPULAR MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.
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Forbes Park, Makati City Tel Nos 843 883[illegible] 30 Fax No 843-[illegible]
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills Mandaluyong City Telefax 724-4139 726-2044
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Magallanes Village Makati City Tels 852-8228 852-7284
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296 Quezon Ave. Quezon City Tels 372-5084 [illegible]0-9286/87
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[illegible] 84[illegible] 84[illegible] [illegible]180 845-483[illegible]
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Ge[illegible] Tels [illegible]2 8848 52 [illegible] 400-5394

THE PARTNERS AND STAFF OF
SGV & Co.

condole with the family of the late

EDUARDO M. VILLANUEVA

Former Partner and Vice Chairman

who peacefully joined his Creator
on August 4, 2003 at the age of 80.

His remains lie in state at the
Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio
Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Saturday, August 9, 2003
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, the family will appreciate donations to the Our Lady of Angels Seminary.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
3F Unishoppe Complex, Quezon Avenue, Angono, Rizal
Tels. 651-1711 to 15. Direct Line 651-0737, 648-2196
Telefax 651-0756

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date	Time	Place	Place of Wake
NERIO C. CALINGO	Aug. 7, 2003	1:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	#171 Saturn St., Constellation Homes Angono, Rizal
JANET C. SALVADOR	Aug. 8, 2003	2:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Angono, Rizal	#24 Rebecca St. San Carlos Height Subd Binangonan, Rizal
PROFERIO O. ABOGA	Aug. 7, 2003	12:30 P.M.	Holy Gardens Memorial Park Taytay, Rizal	#1129 Arenda, Sta. Ana Taytay Rizal
EUTIQUIO T. VASQUEZ	Aug. 9 2003	1:00 P.M.	Holy Gardens Greenhills Mem. Park, Calamba City	Barandal, Calamba City

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www.holygardens.com
E-mail address sales@holygardens.com

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will pursue me all the days
of my life; I will dwell in the house
of the Lord for years to come..."

Psalm 23:6

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS
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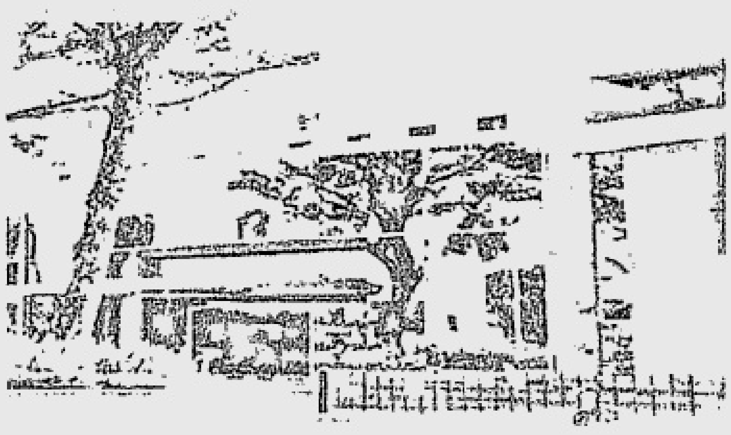
From: INQUIRER

LA FUNERARIA PAZ-SUCAT, INC.

PAZ



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2 THE IN-LAWS	BULLETPROOF MONK	2 BAD BOYS II 11 30 2 30 5 30 8 30	THX GUARANTEED SEATS BAD BOYS II 12 30 3 15 6 00 8 45 11 30	TOMB RAIDER 2
TOMB RAIDER 2	THX GUARANTEED SEATS TOMB RAIDER 2 12 30 3 00 5 30 8 00 10 30	APO HIKING SOCIETY & HOTDOG -BACK2BACK Aug 28 · 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 DOWN W/ LOVE 1 50 4 00 6 10 8 20 10 30	THE IN-LAWS
4 BAD BOYS II	MY LITTLE EYE		GUARANTEED SEATS BULLETPROOF MONK 12 40 2 50 5 00 7 10 9 20 11 30	DOWN W/ LOVE
	5 HOLES		GUARANTEED SEATS TOMB RAIDER 2 1 20 3 50 [illegible]	BULLETPROOF MONK
	6 BAD BOYS II			
	7 DARKWATER			

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1 TERMINATOR-3
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TOMB RAIDER-2
5 BAD BOYS-2
6 BAD BOYS-2
7 BULLET PROOF MONK
8 DOWN WITH LOVE
9 DARK WATER
10 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX RESERVE

Masagana CINEMA ①②③

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 . 833.3274

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RAIDERS-2

st rmall Movies

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 TOMB RAIDER-2
5 WILD BUTTERFLY

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www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 BAD BOYS-2

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(Las Pinas)
tel 873.5004

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SEX & ZEN-2

PREMIERE CINEMA THX

(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

BAD BOYS-2

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TERMINATOR - 3
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC

tel 930.9515

1
2
3

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 XEREX
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 BAD BOYS-2
4 RESERVE
5 TOMB RAIDER-2
6 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
7 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
8 BAD BOYS-2
9 BULLET PROOF MONK

Gotesco Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2 RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 365.7928

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BAD BOYS-2
5 BULLET PROOF MONK
6 BAD BOYS-2
7 TERMINATOR-3
8 MASAMANG UGAT
9 WILD BUTTERFLY

Gotesco Commonwealth

tel 951.0082

1 TSA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 BAD BOYS-2
5 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Gotesco Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
5 BAD BOYS-2

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 BAD BOYS-2

Sampaguita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 RESERVE

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
Lords SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
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Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 · 533.3856

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 TOMB RAIDER-2
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA

tel 733.4238

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 RESERVE
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS

FRC Cinema

(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 879.2029

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 TOMB RADER-2

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT

Araneta

MALL-CINEPLEX 7

tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 BAD BOYS-2
5 BAD BOYS-2
6 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 TOMB RADER-2

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS

tel 911.3101 loc. 821 8242 8400

1 CLOSED
2 CLOSED

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
TEL. (049) 837-0926

1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RADER-2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 TOMB RADER-2
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 BULLET PROOF MONK
2 BAD BOYS-2
3 TOMB RADER-2
4 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 TOMB RADER-2
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown

(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 DOWN WITH LOVE
2 MSAMANG UGAT
3 TERMINATOR-3
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Magic Star Cinema

(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 MASAMANG UGAT

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SUGAT
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELLAS
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 BAD BOYS-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 WILD BUTTERFLY
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
3

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 249.2558

1 TOMB RAIDER-2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 WILD BUTTERFLY

Mega Center Mall

(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
2 MASAMANG UGAT
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 TERMINATOR-3
3 RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MASAMANG UGAT
2 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 TERMINATOR-3

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 TOMB RAIDER-2
4 BAD BOYS-2

Cine Nepo Mall

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-0121

1 FINDING NEMO (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 BAD BOYS-2
4 TOMB RAIDER-2

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THE IN-LAWS

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SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR

4173868

1 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
2 IN-LAWS
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 BULLETPROOF MONK
7 MOTEL
8 TERMINATOR 3

SM CENTERPOINT

7149522 -7161416

1 NAKED WEAPON
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 MOTEL
5 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
6 SNAKE LADY
7 BULLETPROOF MONK
8 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
9 IN-LAWS
10 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1 MOTEL
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 BULLETPROOF MONK
6 NAKED WEAPON
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 IN-LAWS
9 BAD BOYS 2
10 LIGAYA, PANTASYA NG BAYAN
11 LLIZZIE MCGUIRE
12 DARK WATER

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 BULLETPROOF MONK
3 MY LITTLE EYE
4 BAD BOYS 2
5 NAKED WEAPON
6 BAD BOYS 2
7 MOTEL
8 SNAKE LADY
9 DARK WATER
10 BANGKOK HAUNTED
11 TERMINATOR 3
12 IN-LAWS

SM MEGAMALL

6331901 · 6329401

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 BULLETPROOF MONK 2
5 MY LITTLE EYE
6 HOLES
7 DARK WATER
8 NAKED WEAPON
9 IN-LAWS
10 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
11 SNAKE LADY
12 MOTEL

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9295452

1 BULLETPROOF MONK
2 TERMINATOR 3
3 MOTEL
4 NAKED WEAPON
5 IN-LAWS
6 MY LITTLE EYE
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM SOUTHMALL

8066888

1 NAKED WEAPON
2 SNAKE LADY
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 IN LAWS
5 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
8 BAD BOYS 2
9 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
10 MOTEL

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
7 IMPOSTOR
8 BAD BOYS 2

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1 DEATH WATCH
2 RESERVED
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 BANGKOK HAUNTED
7 RESERVED
8 MASAMANG UGAT

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
2 DEATH WATCH
3 BULLETPROOF MONK
4 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
5 IMPOSTOR
6 BAD BOYS 2

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1 IN-LAWS
2 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 MOTEL

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 IN-LAWS
3 MOTEL
4 BULLETPROOF MONK

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DEATH WATCH
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 BULLETPROOF MONK
5 DUMB & DUMBERER
6 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM BICUTAN

776-3055

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 MOTEL
3 IN-LAWS
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

859-2884

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
4 TOMB RAIDER: CRADLE OF LIFE

THE PODIUM CINEMA

633-8976

1 BAD BOYS 2
11:10 FS/11:20 MF/2:15/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:35 END

2 IN-LAWS
11:40 FS/12:10 MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:40 END

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1 BAD BOYS 2 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 THX
2 BAD BOYS 2 10:15, 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
3 LIZZIE MCGUIRE 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45
4 TOMB RAIDER 2 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
5 BULLET PROOF MONK 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
6 TOMB RAIDER 2 10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30, 9:50
7 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS 10 50, 1 00, 3:10, 5 20, 7:30, 9 50
8 TERMINATOR 3 10 50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:50
9 DARK WATER 12.05, 2:15, 4 30, 6 40, 9:00
10 DOWN WITH LOVE 1.00, 3.10, 5.20 7:30, 9.50

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Ermita

1 BAD BOYS 2 - 10:15, 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
2 TOMB RAIDER 2 - 10:15, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30
4 TOMB RAIDER - 11:20, 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:50
5 DARK WATER - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
6 BULLET PROOF MONK - 10:10, 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:40
7 BAD BOYS 2 - 11:50, 2:50, 5:50, 8:55

Metro East

1 TERMINATOR 3
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 TOMB RAIDER 2
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER 2
7 DOWN WITH LOVE
8 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Novaliches

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 TOMB RAIDER 2
6 TERMINATOR 3
7 LIZZIE MCGUIRE
8 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Malabon

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 BAD BOYS 2
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2

Star Mills

1 BANGKOK HAUNTED
2 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
3 DOWN WITH LOVE
4 BULLET PROOF MONK
5 BAD BOYS 2
6 TOMB RAIDER 2

Imus

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 TOMB RAIDER 2
3 BULLET PROOF MONK
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED
6 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS

Sta. Rosa

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 SABIK SA PAG-IBIG
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 BANGKOK HAUNTED

Bacolod

1 28 DAYS LATER
2 BULLET PROOF MONK
3 BAD BOYS 2
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 JACKASS THE MOVIE
6 WILD BUTTERFLY

Iloilo

1 BAD BOYS 2
2 DOWN WITH LOVE
3 JACKASS THE MOVIE
4 TOMB RAIDER 2
5 IMPOSTOR
6 TOMB RAIDER 2

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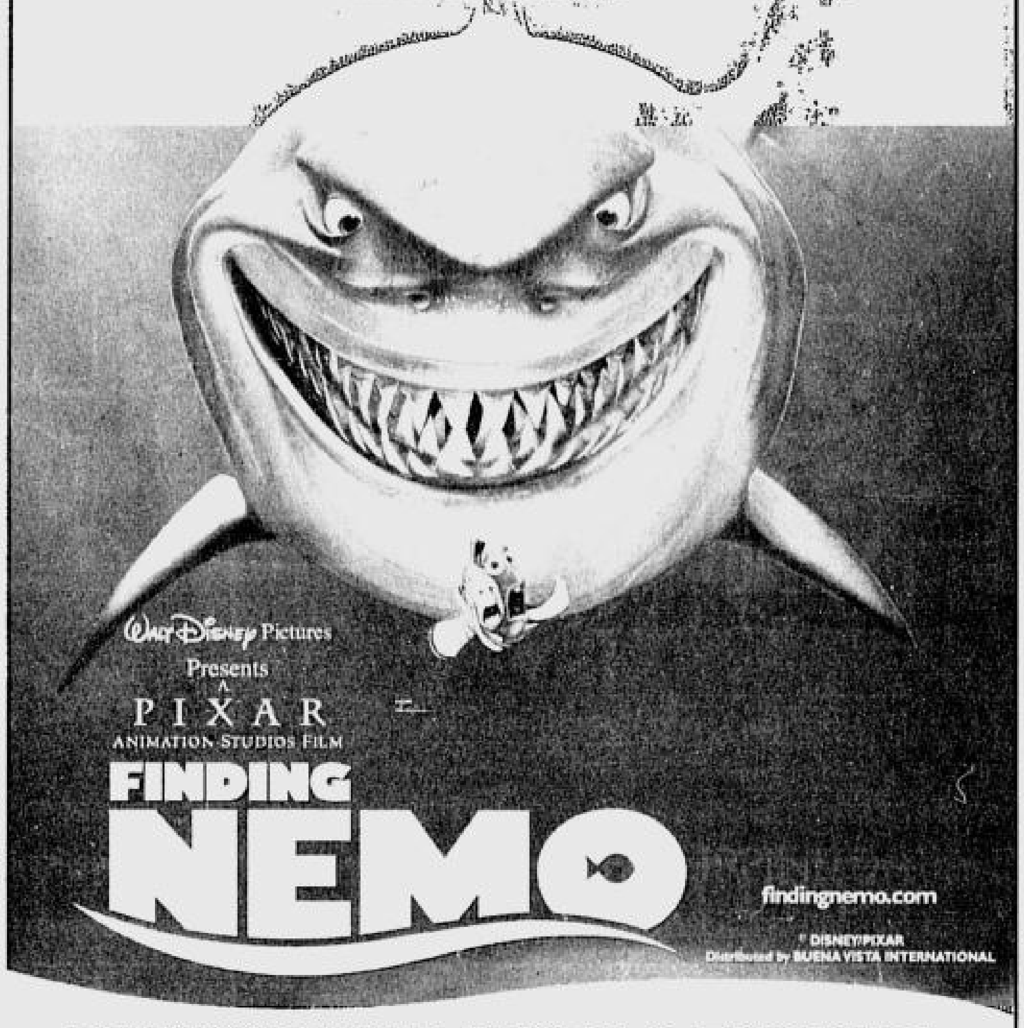
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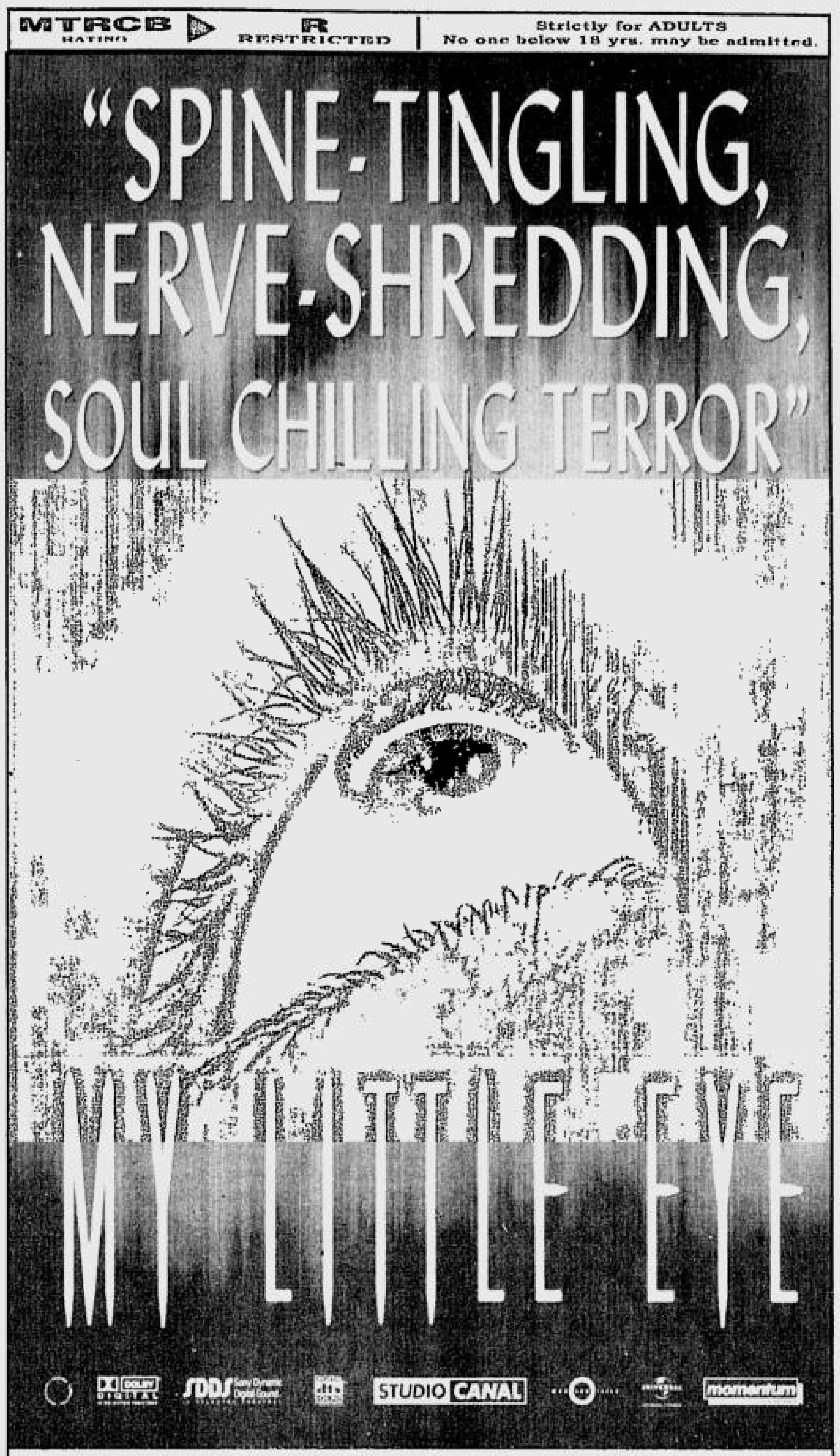
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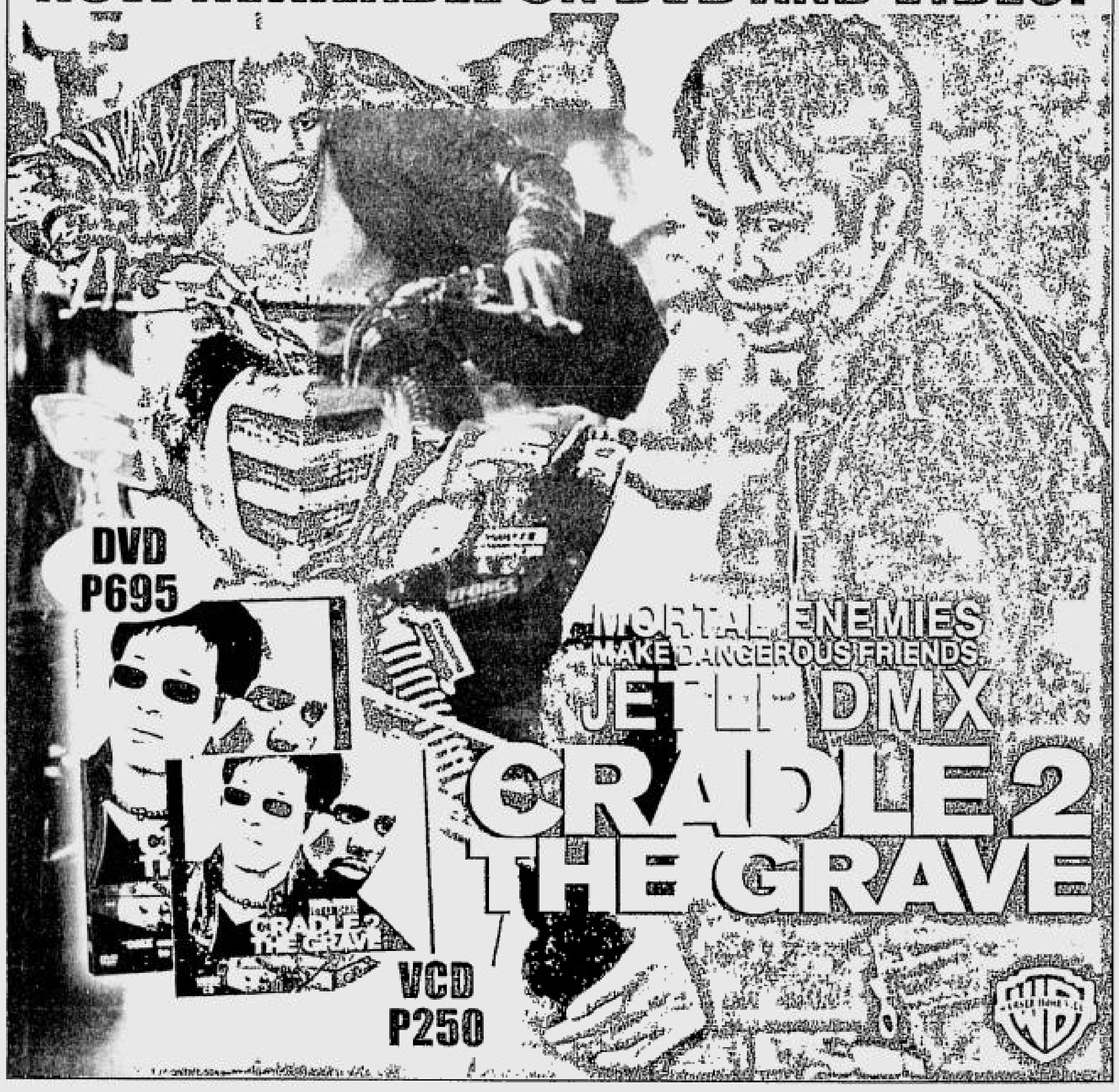
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PEOPLE at WORK

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Jumpstart your way to a better image

By Dr. Tony Alessandra, Ph.D.

HERE are some great ideas on projecting a positive image:

1. A winning image starts with a good self-image.

A good self-image doesn't follow success-it precedes it, as Robert L. Shook says in his book, "Winning Images." Someone saddled with a poor self-image may fool some people some of the time, but eventually he'll fail, unless he comes to grips with his basic self-image.

Many of us carry around an image that doesn't really jibe with the facts. You could be holding a negative self-image that you subtly communicate to everyone you meet. If you feel that you're too tall, or overweight, or unattractive in some way, you'll lack confidence, and others will pick up on this immediately.

Or it's possible you could have an overly positive image of yourself. You may think you look terrific, when in fact you're a sloppy dresser who's 20 pounds overweight and badly in need of a haircut or a makeover.

Many of us carry around an image that doesn't really jibe with the facts

You do need to analyze yourself closely because, as you'll learn, your image is important, and you can do something about it! To find out how others see you, get some photographs or videotapes taken when you feel you're looking your best. Specify close-ups and then study them carefully. What do you see that you like, or don't like?

Then ask your close friends for their candid opinions on how you look, how you carry yourself, how you come across verbally, and what your car or house or briefcase or other material goods say about you. Promise them you won't take offense-and don't! Then ask them to tell you also about your image in terms of knowledge and enthusiasm as well as sincerity and integrity.

2. Make your wardrobe work for you.

Often, we acquire our clothes haphazardly-a sale item or an impulse buy here, a Christmas gift there-without much thought as to how they fit our image, or even if they match each other. In fact, you've probably seen folks who've expanded their wardrobe only to hobble themselves by wearing a plaid shirt with a striped tie, or to go overboard with jewelry that clatters and clangs when they walk. In other words, unless you know how to put it all together, you can improve your wardrobe but still project a poor image. So make sure your colors, patterns, and accessories are complementary, not clashing.

Most of us have at least one or two outfits that make us feel especially good when we're wearing them. We tend to save those for special occasions. But why not try to increase that number to three, four, or more such outfits and, thus, try to make a particularly good impression every day? If you're vague about what you look best in, consult a friend or coworker whose taste you admire, or go to a wardrobe consultant. They often spot things that you'd look good in but probably never considered trying on.

A professional wardrobe consultant may sound like a costly luxury. But many times their advice is free if you buy clothes from them, and some will do your wardrobe shopping at an hourly rate, which can save you a lot of time. Combine that time savings with greater selection and the likelihood of a superb fit, and it may all add up to a terrific value for you.

3. For maximum effect, freshen up.

Men should consider carrying a portable razor and a small stash of toiletries to ward off the worn-out, end-of-a-tough-day look before a business meeting in the late afternoon or early evening. Similarly, women probably should have cosmetics and hair-care items handy, and maybe even an extra pair of earrings or other fashion accessories, to give their appearance-and maybe their spirits-a refreshing boost.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

4. Avoid annoying or distracting habits or mannerisms.

Rarely do impressive people cover their mouths or noses, scratch their heads, chew on a pencil, twist rubber bands around their fingers, or tear their napkins into shreds while talking. Marcia Grad calls these habits "charisma robbers" and includes among them:

Tugging at clothing
Drumming fingers on a table
Tapping pencils or clicking pens
Doodling
Jangling keys or change
Biting nails
Cleaning teeth

Not only do these habits make it more difficult for the other person to hear you, they also prevent you from projecting an assured and confident self-image.

5. Go first-class on professional tools.

Don't scrimp on image enhancers like business cards, letterheads, pens, and briefcases. Getting quality stationery and accessories will cost only a few pennies more in the long run while making you look-and feel-more professional.

6. Seek winners, spurn losers.

Attitudes are contagious! So nurture your emotional well-being by choosing friends who genuinely want you to succeed and who encourage you.

Read some inspirational and motivational books. Or listen to happy music. (Have you ever heard a mournful banjo tune?) Or make it a point to go to funny movies or watch a TV sitcom that makes you laugh.

Consciously make the effort to reduce your exposure to the negative, whether it's gossip from coworkers, violence in the media, or pessimism in your own thoughts.

7. Practice treating everyone-from the janitor on up-as if he or she is the most important person you'll meet that day.

This means you'll have to try replacing arrogance with empathy-not an easy task for a lot of people. However, this is a real test of character, and every once in a while, you'll learn a big lesson from that "little" person.

In "The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People," Stephen Covey repeats a wonderful story about a captain who spied a light coming through the fog toward his battleship.

The captain ordered a signal sent by flashing light: "We are on a collision course, advise you change course 20 degrees."

Back came the signal: "Advisable for you to change course 20 degrees."

The captain messaged back: "I'm a captain. You had better change course 20 degrees."

"I'm a seaman second class," came the reply. "You had better change course 20 degrees."

Now furious, the captain spat out the message: "I'm a battleship. Change course 20 degrees."

Back came the flashing light: "I'm a lighthouse."

The captain changed course.

Attitudes are contagious! So nurture your emotional well-being by choosing your friends

8. Give sincere compliments.

Sometimes people don't tell themselves-or maybe don't fully believe it-when they do a good job. So they'll appreciate you mentioning it. Even the most hardened person, despite saying otherwise, does care what others think. "I can live for months on a good compliment," said Mark Twain, who was as accomplished a writer and wit as any man of his day.

9. Don't just say it. Do it!

Words, while important, are cheap. Credibility is gained by backing up those words with action. If you're in a leadership position, be very aware that you set examples for others with both your appearance and integrity. Cultivate a do-as-I-do, not a do-as-I-say, philosophy.

You can show your sincerity by practicing what you preach on a daily basis. One manager, for instance, demanded his subordinates be pillars of strength when it came to refusing gifts from clients who might then expect special treatment. A day of reckoning came when the manager, known for his insatiable sweet tooth, received a gift of two chocolate pies from a local pastry shop. It's said there was a tear in his eye-and probably a pang in his stomach-as he had the pies returned with a gracious note. Everyone in the office had been watching-and he knew it-to see if he would be true to his own credo.

10. Make fitness a lifestyle, not a chore.

You don't need an expensive club membership or a cross-country ski machine to maintain a body that exudes vitality. Forget the spandex, stopwatches, and ankle warmers, for instance, and just:

Walk up and down the stairs to your high-rise office or apartment.

Ride a bike to the neighborhood convenience store to pick up that quart of nonfat milk.

Skip the cart and get some real exercise while golfing.

Take a nature hike instead of watching a nature film on television.

Got a friend you meet with regularly to shoot the breeze?

Get in your chat while walking around the neighborhood instead of over a cup of coffee or a beer. You'll both be better off.

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ASK YOUR CEO

"Ask your CEO column will resume next week"

How do you counsel an employee?

DEAR WW: I'm a new manager and I have an employee whose work is mediocre. I think she can do better, but the trouble is she's been here forever (she's a lot older than me) and is a strong personality, and I'm afraid that if I confront her she'll have me for dinner. How can I approach her?

Feel Like A Lion Tamer

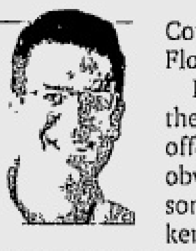
Speaking of having you for dinner . . . McDonald's recently agreed to join Disney in promoting Disney's Wild Animal Kingdom in Orlando. In its promotion, McDonald's decided to feature the McRib sandwich. Now, perhaps you think it's odd to celebrate animals by eating them. But McDonald's doesn't. According to a spokesman, "Animal Kingdom is very much a wild experience, and the McRib is a wild taste that allows customers to experience the fun and magic of the Animal Kingdom without going to Orlando."

Counseling

Well, I've noticed that many bosses choose that same way to experience the fun and magic of their employees: they take a bite out of them. You're wise to hesitate before launching a confrontation. Instead of attacking your employee, you need to counsel her. The following questions will get you started. You'll find more tips in "Coaching, Counseling and Mentoring" by Florence Stone (Amacom, 1999).

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner



Does the employee know there's a problem? Pardon me for offering a blinding glimpse of the obvious, but it's tough to fix something you don't know is broken. Tell the woman you think she can do better, and see what she has to say.

Sources

Do you know what's really causing the problem? W. Edwards Deming observed that 96% of workplace problems are caused by the system, not by the actions of individual employees. Inefficient procedures, logjams in other departments, and other problems outside an employee's control can easily impair her productivity. Do some digging to find the real source(s) of the problem.

Can she solve the problem herself? This might sound funny coming from an advice columnist, but I believe the best solutions often come from the people on the front lines. Once you've explained the problem, ask your employee to propose a fix. You may be surprised at what she comes up with.

Progress reviews

Do you schedule regular progress reviews? You may think that performance appraisals have all the fun of a root canal, but they're essential to keeping you and your employee on the same page. Don't wait for the annual review. The most effective bosses meet with employees at least every quarter.

Do you recognize progress? My performance reviews WERE like root canals: they focused exclusively on the painful. Reviews are far more palatable-and productivel-when they include positive feedback too. So congratulate your employees on what they're doing right and keep your criticisms constructive. That way, people will leave your office feeling built up rather than ground down.

DIONISIO BUCCAT

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Dialogue

Basically, if you establish a regular dialogue with your employee, she'll seem like less of a wild animal. Who knows? Maybe she'll even "super-size" her efforts on your behalf.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: Which movie title best describes how your boss gives you feedback about your performance at work?

—Bambi Meets Godzilla, 8.2%

—Dr. Jeckle and Mr. Hyde, 45.3%

—And Justice For All, 46.4%

(Mr. Rosner is the author of "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and RetentionEvangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.*)*

Marvels of the millennium will revolutionize business

FROM wireless to wearables, technology in the future is destined to shape the office of tomorrow. Much like the way the Internet revolutionized business in the 1990s (from 9 to 5 to 24/7), the marvels of the millennium are sure to impact the office profoundly. Here are a few more predictions.

- Robots will take over repetitive tasks and give knowledge workers more time and energy for creative efforts.
- Biometrics. The security industry has already grabbed hold of the potential for hand scanning as a means of access control. From password to cardreader to retinal scan: The future of point-of-entry monitoring is in for a revolution.
- Wireless. We will eventually reach an entirely wireless world. As battery power increases and wireless solutions become cost effective and readily available, employees will be freed from their desks. Technology will be portable and the Internet will always be on.
- Wearable technology. From the pocket calculator to the microchip, the increasing miniaturization of technology will spawn wearable computers and phones—some of which are already available. Surf the web for more information at www. charmed.com, www.ideo.com, and www.xybernaut.com.
- By 2005, the global population of Internet users will reach at least 300 million. By 2010, 95% of people in the industrialized world and 50% of those in developing countries will be online.
- By 2010, New York, Tokyo, and Frankfurt will emerge as transfer points for passengers of high-speed, large-capacity supersonic planes.
- Airline crashes will decline and results in fewer fatalities. Reasons: safer seat design, flash-resistant fuels, and improved navigation and communication technologies for transoceanic flights

(Source: Thomson DBM's Tomorrow's World of Work Series)

How the technology revolution will impact on the future workplace

PICTURE this: "It's 2015, you're getting ready for work. You glance through the bedroom window and see a beautiful summer's day. Why not work at the beach? Why not get a tan? So you pop your laptop computer into your beach bag, pick up your remote key, pondering whether to fly to your local beach by air car (which takes about five minutes) or teleport yourself to an exotic Caribbean beach, which will take, say, 30 seconds. You decide on the latter, preferring the less stressful option..."

Unmet expectations

Media hype and predictions over the past few years, painting scenarios like the one above, have certainly engendered false hope. Because if you really believed that society would barely have to lift a finger, because computers and technology would do the work for us, you are in for a disappointment.

Indeed, many of us are already disappointed: a recent National Opinion Poll carried out in Britain showed that people half-expected the new century to offer much more futuristic options, such as routine moon travel, holidays on Jupiter and Mars, cars that flew and robots that did the household chores. But the world just it is isn't as futuristic as we were led to believe. In reality, we haven't quite reached such exotic, leisurely, dream vacation /work settings just yet. In fact, the totally paperless office has yet to arrive and inventions like the above still sound farfetched. Mobile phones and wireless Web gadgets just aren't fast enough or can't do quite enough. Yet...

Automation

Only a few years ago, we shared computers and fought over who would get the next high-speed PC's (i.e. the emergence of the Pentium chip) and few of us had personal email addresses and if we did, they were just that—"personal" email addresses. In the past five years alone, IT has already had a profound impact on all sectors in the global economy. Increased automation through IT has meant faster and improved output of goods and services across all sectors. Of course, this comes at a cost, as increased automation did mean a loss of jobs. Jobs in the service sector are even being lost today due to computers. Automation and re-engineering are already replacing human labor across a wide swath of service related fields. Take the banking and finance sector, where computers have replaced millions of back end office jobs. And now Internet banking is reducing the need for the physical presence of high street banks, increasing the number of unemployed.

According to author of "The End of Work," Jeremy Rifkin, these new thinking machines are capable of performing many mental tasks performed by humans and at greater speeds. Rifkin believes that computers will indeed replace more and more jobs done by humans even in the service sectors. He predicts that over the next few decades rising unemployment will become a huge issue for governments around the world, as fewer people will be required to produce the goods and services we need. But is it all bad news?

Easy communication

Anyone can see technology has lightened the load and made communications easier. Across the country, computer-mediated communications networks, from simple electronic mail services to high-tech videoconferencing systems, are being used by workers and implemented by management to create a different way to conduct business. Technology is allowing workers to communicate worldwide and have access to tons of information from their computers. Email has definitely transcended geography—making international communication as easy as dialing up. There is no longer the traditional 9 to 5 workday. Now we can reach out to parts of the world in different time zones through globalization and the Internet.

Globalization and easy transportation have helped to make "business on the move" commonplace. Even hours that were previously frittered away staring out the window of the train are now put to good use with the aid of a laptop computer and a mobile phone. This type of technology breaks all time and space barriers for conducting business, and many say that it is really just the first step in the global implementation of the "virtual office." Employees utilizing electronic mail, real-time conferencing, and bulletin boards have found this technology is increasingly bringing about a global, linked network for conducting business. these "virtual workers" can be in Hong Kong, London, or San Francisco. It doesn't really matter how far away or close they are.

More changes

So what other changes will technology bring about in the future? It is certain there will be ever more digital communication in the workplace—technology never rolls backward. People will send work by email as they do now and there will be an increased reliance on video conferencing. E-tools and communication devices will become ever more portable, allowing us to connect up wherever we are, that's for sure.

So just when we think we couldn't ask for anything more, tools for working anywhere continue to hit the market: and it's all about mobility. PDA's (personal digital assistants) are merging with cell phones and credit cards, laptops are getting thinner and smaller; wireless technology is inching toward full service and newsprint is merging with the chip. It's a whole new way of thinking.

Innovative products

In Helsinki blue-tooth chips allow your cell phone to act like a credit card. You buy gas, groceries, pay for parking or grab a coke from a vending machine and the charges show up on your phone bill. Microsoft's latest project is the "Tablet PC" a tool resembling the size and weight of heavy paper with the computing power of a PC. And E-Ink is finessing a similar product with a charged paper-like product displaying an image or text with the resolution of ink on paper yet consuming only 1/1000 of the power required by laptop computers. The image will change like a computer screen. Imagine reading a book without the physical weight of one or a newspaper without stretching your arms. Thus, paper will become changeable, reusable and liberating, instead of simple "disposable." When it hits the market in 2004, it will significantly alter current electronics such as cell phones, PDA's and laptops and create new opportunities for workspace and new concepts regarding work location.

Many other developments are underway that may or may not have significant impacts on daily life and work processes. Video communication in five years will be as prevalent as still images on a web site are today. Holographic images are still being finessed as a means of facilitating virtual meetings. This could spell the end of lots of international travel and if not, air travel will certainly become faster. Futurists predict that future rocket planes will be so fast, that we'll be able to get form Sydney to London in two hours instead of twenty-one and things we see in Sci fi films will become a reality.

(Source: Thomson DBM's Tomorrow's World of Work Series)

REUTERS

AN employee of Taiwan's Eastern Broadband Telecom displays two new third-generation (3G) mobile phones at a ceremony in Taipei marking the launch of the island's first 3G wireless service.

MANAGING YOUR CAREER TO THE TOP

The bare facts on office politics

By Josie O. Santamaria

(This is the fifth installment on the series of articles on Managing Your Career to the Top.)

DO THESE lamentations sound familiar to you?

"That's the problem in this company. You need to play the game. Otherwise you lose out to those who are sipsip," Alex tells Dario who has just learned that his "rival" got the position of division manager after months of speculation.

"I have no connections, no sponsor up there. That's why I was in the firing line. I was just doing my job," wails Abby upon learning she was in the list of those to be offered a special separation package.

Another employee who didn't get the much sought-after promotion complains: "It's pretty obvious why I didn't get the position. It's true we're both qualified but she beat me to it because she and the boss had been classmates in law school and in mahjong on Saturdays so they're buddies."

"He got the promotion because you know how he is with the boss. He says 'yes' to the boss all the time, publicly praises the boss. Boss this, boss that...it's so sickening!"

"Nope, I'm not going to be involved in the war between Allan and Bert [two division managers]. I'll just do my job the best way I can. Promotion here should be based on merit, on the quality of my work," says Marjo.

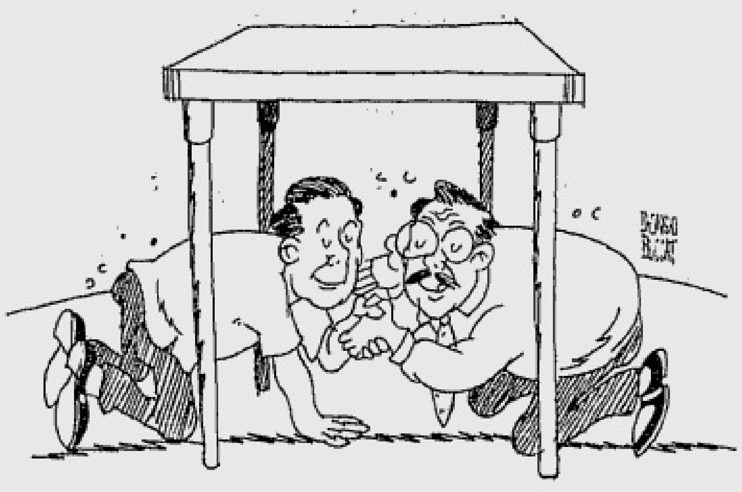


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Perceptions

These statements reveal perceptions on office politics. It is also negatively perceived as: use of power to control other people, psychological manipulation, kowtowing to the powerful, being cautious about telling the truth, hiding one's vulnerability, currying favor, arm wrestling/ twisting, horse trading, or "swimming with the sharks."

Engaging in office politics has come to mean continuous attention to who's important or not at any given moment and strategically aligning with the right person and with the right faction.

The reality in the corporate world, whether you like it or not, is that mistakes in making this decision can be fatal to one's career. However, many people decide it is smarter to sit on the sidelines. They think it's much safer not to get involved. The downside to this reaction is that if you make it obvious that you prefer to stay out, the best you can hope for is to be completely ignored. This might be good for your psyche but it's tough on your career. No one can take your principles away from you but mean players in the office politics game can take away your position. It's really your choice. But prepare for the consequences. You may find it hard to get choice assignments or promotions. You may even be a candidate for a lay-off. Or you could be a target for skilled political players who may want to use you to further their own agenda.

Gamesmanship

What is office politics a.k.a. corporate gamesmanship? Michael Alesko, in his article on "Office Politics: Do you Play or Pass" in Today's Careers, defines office politics as the "use and misuse of power in the workplace." I define office politics as the use and misuse of power to make decisions that impact on people's work and career.

This definition shows that office politics is part and parcel of organizational life. There is no organization, whether public or government, private business, NGO, church or religious, where there is no element of politics at work. The only difference is that some organizations have more office politics while others have less of it.

Organizations that are overrun with politics will lose out and run out of business. Political decisions encourage hypocrisy, secrecy, deal making, rumors, power brokers, self-interests and self-promotion, image building, and cliques-not the ingredients for a recipe on effective teamwork.

Causes

A research study cited by Dr. Susan Osborn, author of "The System Made Me Do It! A Life Changing Approach to Office Politics," reveals that 75% of people who fail in their jobs do so because of political problems, not skill deficiencies. Many intelligent and capable employees aren't as successful as they might be because they have not learned to manage office politics.

Dr. Osborn cites the following reasons why politics will always exist in every organization:

1. Business is a highly competitive game sparked by survival conditions and by an expanding or shrinking world market in which companies must continue to grow. There's a constant challenge to win over competition with innovation and creativity to reduce costs, to deliver faster and more efficient service, and to acquire additional resources. Competing companies are driven to delight the customer to be Number One. Individuals in organizations jockeying for rewards and recognition are merely an outgrowth of this larger spirit of competition in the marketplace, which is now becoming more global in nature.

2. The hierarchical structure of traditional organizations is such that there are fewer and fewer rooms at the top. There are always more people vying for the few top positions because to be at the top means power and status and the money, perks and benefits that go with higher positions.

3. Organizational culture of suppressing personal ambition in favor of the team or organizational goals. Because of this, people learn to keep their feelings and ambitions to themselves, to avoid discussion of sensitive issues, and to support the denial of interpersonal conflicts. However, human beings as we are, we want to relate with people. Initially we want to belong to a group, then, we want higher status and power over others. Because human needs haven't been factored into the equation, what is suppressed or repressed is expressed in the form of office politics. Thus, deal making, rumor mongering via the grapevine, kowtowing to the powers-that-be, etc.

(Next week, how to manage office politics.)

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc, a leading career development consulting and training company in the country. Email your feedback to carsys@qinet.net. Visit the website of Career Systems, Inc. at www.careersystems.com.ph.)

PICPA holds confab in Albay

SCENIC Mayon Volcano

THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa) will hold its 57th Annual National Convention (ANC) at Albay Astrodome in the historic city of Legazpi on Nov. 26-29, 2003. With the theme "PICPA: Partner for Progress," the four-day event is expected to draw at least 1,500 participants from all over the country.

Dr. Rufo R. Mendoza, the 57th ANC chair, says, "The convention has always been the most-attended event of the Institute because it serves as a venue for the exchange of ideas on emerging issues and the latest development in the accountancy profession." He also added that the convention gives its participants an opportunity to grow professionally as they enjoy the chance to gain new friends and renew acquaintances.

Novel activities

To kick-off the event, a caravan will be held on Nov. 26 in Sto. Tomas, Batangas to welcome participants coming from Metro Manila. This caravan will pass through strategic points in San Pablo City in Laguna and Lucena City in Quezon toward the convention site in scenic Bicol. Former senator Raul S. Roco has been invited as the convention keynote speaker.

Three technical sessions are also scheduled during the convention to cover the following topics: the People at Work Live! Seminar Series which is scheduled on Nov. 27 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., E-procurement, and International Standards on Financial Instruments. A round table discussion will also be conducted on the issue of fund sufficiency of social insurance companies such as the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System.

Entertainment

A trade fair and exhibit will take place within the Albay Astrodome Compound during the entire convention featuring a vast array of products ranging from native delicacies to novelty items. Simultaneous with the opening of the trade fair and exhibit will be the Annual Planning Conference to be attended by the chapter presidents from all over the country and the overseas chapters of Filipino accountants. An Awards Night will be held to honor deserving PICPA members who excel in the profession.

Before the end of the convention, an evening of cultural presentations with the theme "Sarung-Banggi" (a Bicolano folk song meaning one night), a competition of musical presentations from each of the participating regions to depict the culture of "harana," will be held at the Penaranda Park. A city and provincial tour will culminate the four-day convention on Nov. 29.

All accountants in the country are invited to join the convention. Delegates who will register before Aug. 31 will be entitled to early bird discounts. For more information, contact Abner Ty of PICPA, Albay (052-8208477), Dr. Rufo R. Mendoza (043-756-2243, 756-1186 and 981-2635), the PICPA National Secretariat (02-723-5467 and 723-0691 to 95), or any of the chapter presidents in the locality.

BUSINESS

Treasury junks all bids for 3-yr bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

A JITTERY market continued to push domestic rates up, prompting the Bureau of Treasury to reject for the second straight day all bids for the three-year bonds.

The Treasury can afford to reject bids whenever there are attempts to push rates up given a strong cash position, estimated at P80 billion.

"We would rather draw on our liquidity than pay high rates for today's money. The market continues to be nervous due to the coup rumors," said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza.

The government still holds the bulk of the P74.3 billion in cash generated from the sale of retail bonds last month. While tenders reached P9.03 billion against the auction size of P3 billion, indicating a strong appetite for the debt notes, the bids were all rejected as they would have raised the three-year bond rate by 37.5 basis points.

The average coupon rate in yesterday's auction stood at 9.875 percent against 9.5 percent in June 12 when the government last sold three-year bonds.

The last time the government rejected the bids for treasury bonds was on April 15 when seven-year debt papers were auctioned off.

Last Monday, the auction committee led by the Treasury rejected the bids for all T-bill tenors that could have raised the 91-day benchmark rate by 68.1 basis points to 5.849 percent.

Gov't urged to buy NSC's Iligan plant

VICE-PRESIDENT Teofisto Guingona tickled the interest of creditor-owner banks of cash-strapped National Steel Corp. with a proposal for the government to issue bonds to buy the firm's Iligan plant.

Landbank first vice president and head of the bank's account management group Cecile Borromeo said Guingona made a presentation to the banks two weeks ago to forward the proposal and this elicited excitement among the banks.

However, Borromeo said it remained to be seen whether the Vice-President would have the support of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Finance or the Office of the President for the proposal.

In the meantime, in an interview, Borromeo said that foreign steel firm Ispat has revived its interest to acquire the steel plant.

Ispat has requested a meeting with creditor-owner banks but the banks have deferred negotiations pending the appointment of a financial advisor that would recommend the group's strategy.

An industry source said that Philippine National Bank would recommend to the NSC management committee Ernst & Young/SGV & Co. for the position.

The DOF's approval would be needed for the proposed issuance of the bonds while the SEC's approval would be required for the sale of the plant.

NSC had to shut down operations in 1999 due to heavy debt burden and stiff competition from imported steel. *Elena R. Torrijos*

PSE cuts capital requirement

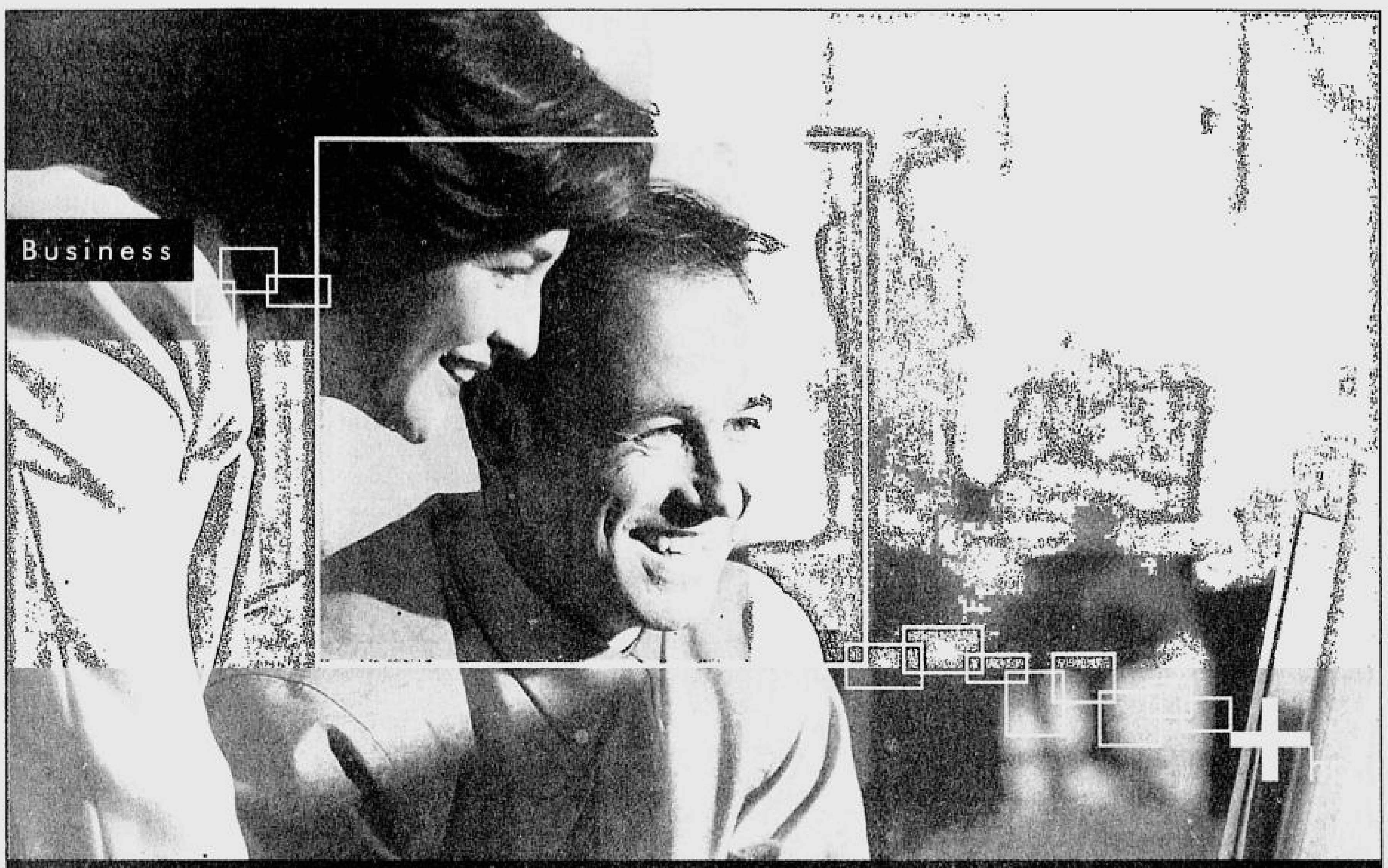
THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange has lowered the minimum capital requirement for companies seeking to list on its second board from P250 million to P100 million to encourage more initial public offerings.

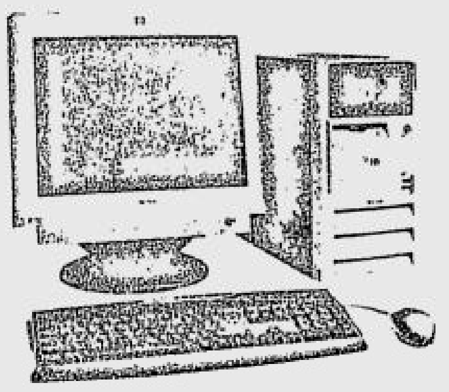
In a memorandum issued yesterday, the PSE said the Securities and Exchange Commission, in a letter dated Aug. 1, had given the exchange the go-ahead to implement the lower capital requirement for the rest of the year.

The reduced capital requirement, however, will be applied only this year. Next year, the requirement will be back to P250 million, the PSE said.

The move is expected to make it easier for smaller companies to list on the PSE despite the difficult economic environment this year.

The PSE's second board, aims to be the country's version of the Nasdaq in the US, seeks to attract for listing those companies with high growth potentials but do not have the track record required in the main board. *Doris C. Dumlao*





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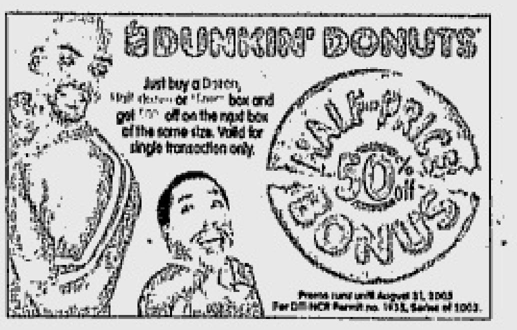

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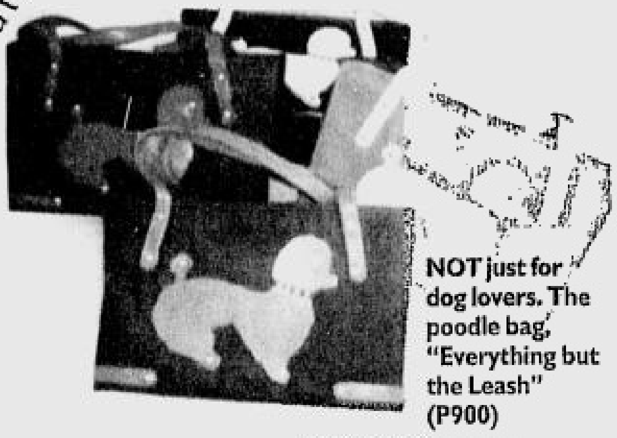
Bagging the best



NOT just for dog lovers. The poodle bag, "Everything but the Leash" (P900)

By Pam Pastor

A GIRL can never have enough bags. Eighteen-year-old Denise Aquino and 23-year-old Nine Carlos have taken this factoid to heart and have capitalized on it.

The two, who are first cousins, share a passion for shopping and fashion. Denise, a Communications Technology Management student at the Ateneo de Manila University, has always dreamt of designing, while Nine, a medical student at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, is a self-confessed bag junkie.

It was Denise's sister-in-law Dawn who first came up with the idea of starting a bag business and asked Denise to design for her. Denise then pulled Nine into the project.

Although Nine was a bit hesitant because she knew that meant giving up studying time, Denise was finally able to convince her, and they took the entrepreneurial plunge.

The first few steps they took included going to Marikina to look for manufacturers. Just three months later, Mieux, French for "best," was born.

Mieux bags are made of different kinds of denim and synthetic leather, all of which are sourced locally. The bags go from P500 to P990.

STUDDED heart handbag, "Everything but the Boy" (P625 for tall design, P680 for wide design)

Nine and Denise describe their bags as "one-of-a-kind, trendy yet classic, functional yet fashionable."

"The mission of Mieux is to be able to give young women bags that could reflect their personality. They are the kind of bags that you will never see in *tiangges*," Nine said.

For now, the partners are selling their creations to friends and friends of friends. New designs are set to come out in mid-August. They aim to expand their business by joining bazaars in the near future.

Text or call Denise at 0917-7939184, Nine at 0917-5336551, or e-mail the girls at denise_and_nine@yahoo.com. You can also view their bags at www.pbase.com/mieuxbags.

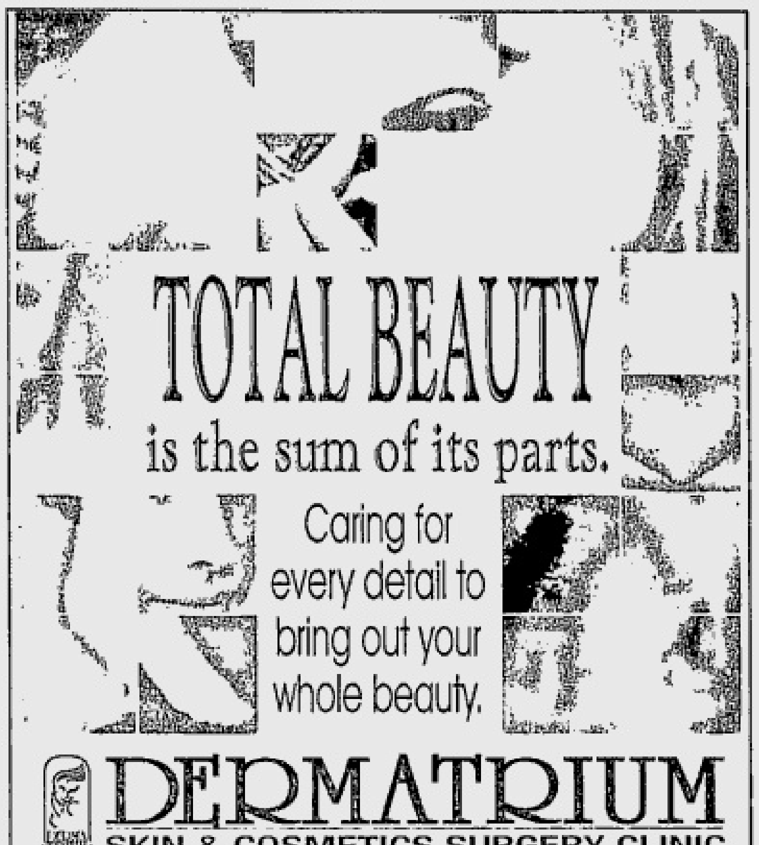
E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph

MIEUX Princesses. Denise and Nine pose with their creations.

Two shockingly young entrepreneurs have come up with Mieux, their own fashionably trendy line of bags

Win a Mieux bag!

ONE lucky 2bU! reader will win Mieux's Fruit Tote. If you want to join, answer this question: What are the things you need to have in your bag all the time? Send your answers along with your name, age, school/office and contact info to contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph by noon on Aug. 11.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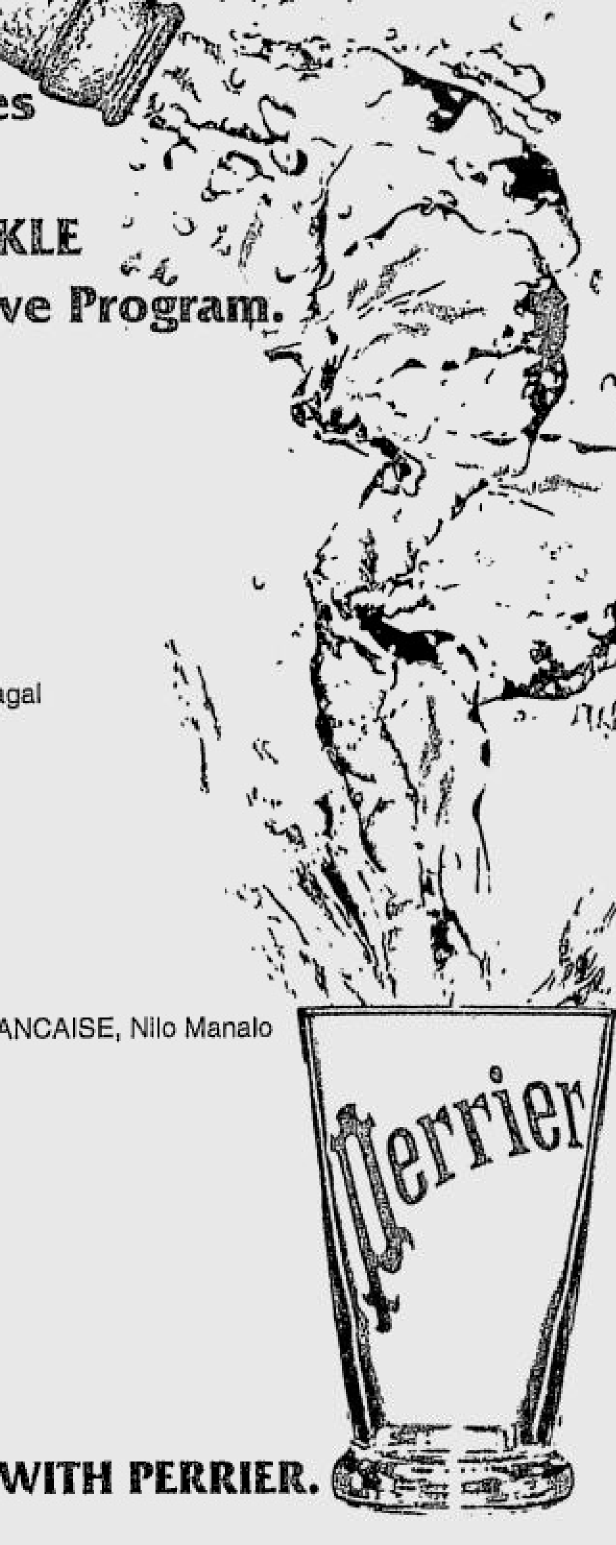

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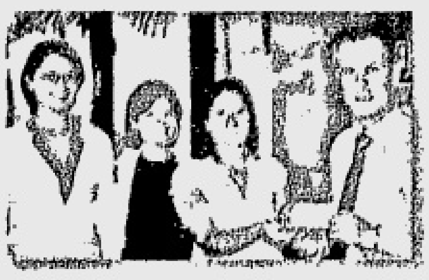

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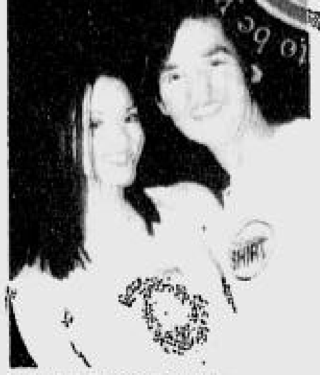
MEGA DOSE OF C. Marielle Santos and Minelli Bautista

SPOTTED. Two of the evening's hottest headturners


FASHION SHOW. Joy Hendrickson and Ritchie Santos

BEAUTIFUL MUSIC. Samantha Arias and Arturo Rocha

HOT CHICK. Vanessa Lauren with Marcel Crespo

Nina, Ogie to bag top honors in MTV Pilipinas

Tim Yap

THAT'S my fearless forecast for the annual music fest that happens tonight at the NBC Tent.

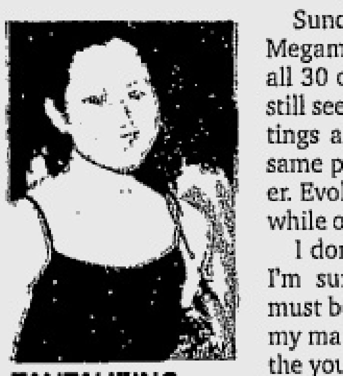
Nope, I didn't ask any of the jurors—'coz part of the tally includes text and faxed votes. So unless some artist's camp has a whole text, fax and e-mail brigade, then I guess "Da Pogi" (who's also hosting the event) and new artist **Nina** will walk away with the top plum.

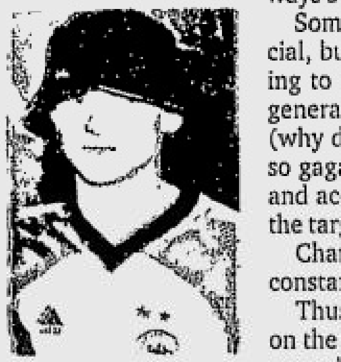
Nina is this year's hottest act. Lately, she has been all over—from shows to guestings and hit charts. Let's not forget that she faces tough competition from **Regine Velasquez**, who's always a strong contender in these parts.

Ogie has a strong and loyal mass presence; his fans can finish off all their cell phone loads just to make sure their idol wins. The favorite new artist award will likewise go to Nina. For favorite group, it's a toss-up between **Rivermaya** and **Slapshock**. Favorite song will still be Nina, for "Jealous"—which will surely make many people jealous of this R&B diva.

Best director will be **Lyle Sacris** for "Wag Na Init Ulo Baby." Slapshock's "Numb" or **Imago**'s "Idlip" might walk away with best video. But let's not discount that **Ayen Laurel**'s "Bawat Gabi" used everything state-of-the-art to make sure her video comes up, up to par.

Then again, these two categories will be jury-based, so no amount of pre-paid cards can catapult anyone to win.


TANTALIZING. Thea Jacinto


SPORTY STUD. Gus Warns at NBC Tent

Lucky generation

Talking about annual fetes, I was in Boracay for the anniversary of Club Bazzura over the weekend. I was chatting with **Lema Diaz**, who's the most in-demand go-go girl in town. Yup, she's the energetic Hotlegs dancer you see atop ledges grooving with the DJ's beat in every big event.

She frequents the hip-hop circuit, and is attuned to the kids who go out now—you know, the mainstays of every R&B night in town.

We recounted the days when we all went out daily—not even Monday and Sunday were spared from our nightly habits. From birthday parties to cocktail gatherings, boutique openings to *despedidas*—there was always some reason to go out and party. It was literally open bar every day (good thing I'm no heavy drinker or else my liver would be complaining by now) and every event was a "must-attend."

Sundays were spent watching movies in Megamall (this was about 5 years ago)—yes, all 30 of us (we were that big). These days I still see them around, though in different settings and locations. Some still frequent the same places but do different things altogether. Evolution. Some have decided to move on while others have chosen to settle down.

I don't go out as often these days (though I'm sure my friends would disagree—that must be the understatement of the year), but my main objective in going out is to see what the young (thank God I'm still one) are up to. It has always been my motivation and will always be.

Some might find that shallow or superficial, but seeing kids in wild abandon, grooving to their own beat, says so much about a generation that co-exists with technology (why do you think cell phone companies are so gaga over the youth bloc?) and is so open and accepting to change (that's why they are the targets of marketers and advertisers).

Change, as the cliché goes, is the only thing constant in our universe.

Thus, lucky is this generation that thrives on the constancy of change, despite its stresses and frustrations. In the face of the complexities of today's milieu, young people still manage to cope wonderfully and exclaim without bitterness, "Ah, that's life."

DOUBLE TAKE. JP Tanchanco, Stephie and Alexa Porcellut and Brian Tanchangco

PARTY ADDICTS. Big Fish's DJ TC and wife Pixie Cheah, Joanne and Domini Primero

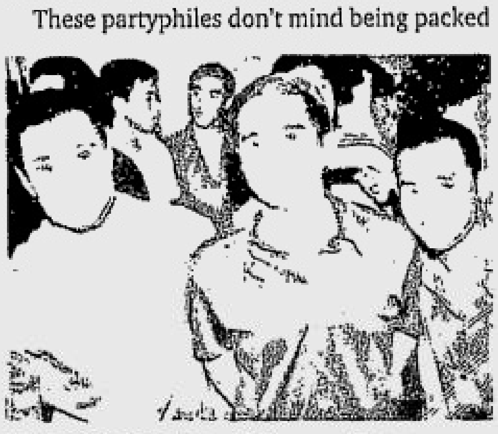
God's Kitchen-omics

Talking about the young adults of today, they were all present in last weekend's Big Fish bash—God's Kitchen at the Tent.

These partyphiles don't mind being packed like sardines in a venue, they don't mind falling in line and are not picky with what they drink (not yet), they are not (yet) jaded about the music and the vibe.

Note: If you are one of the above, work hard to keep that flame within you. Always take out that fear (of whatever—strangers, crowded places, intimacy, darkness, etc.—whatever hinders you from floating your boat) and just do as I do—indulge, indulge, indulge.

And I don't mean indulge just in your social life. In all things, let us bask in life and its many preoccupations—just as I don't consider parties as my end-all and be-all (again, some of my friends—and critics—would disagree). If it seems I appear partial to parties, it's because they are the focus of this space. I have other things to do, new worlds to explore, other lives to touch—those are the subjects of another column. No one can say that I am missing out on life and its multifarious richness. Party or no party, I believe I am in touch with the world.


MEDIUM RARE. David Nugent, Bubut Andres and Joel Tantoco

FILMS
City of God [Fernando Meirelles]
The Debut [Gene Cajayon]
Dogville [Lars Von Trier]
Talk to Her [Pedro Almodovar]
Infernal Affairs [Wai Keung Lau, Siu Fai Mak]
24 Hour Party People [Michael Winterbottom]
Dolls [Takeshi Kitano]
Blessing Bell [Sabu]
Edi [Piotr Trzaskalski]
Maya [Digvijay Singh]
Tale of a Naughty Girl [Buddhadev Dasgupta]
Bird Man Tale [Garin Nugruho]
Belleville Rendezvous [Sylvain Chomet]
Man Without A Past [Aki Kaurismaki]
Madame Brouette [Moussa Sene Absa]
Whale Rider [Niki Caro]
Divine Intervention [Elia Suleiman]
Year of the Devil [Petr Zelenka]
Toy Love [Harry Sinclair]
Drifting Clouds [Aki Kaurismaki]
Buttoners [Petr Zelenka]
The Tracker [Rolf de Heer]
Bandit Queen [Shekhar Kapur]
Mr. & Mrs. Iyer [Aparna Sen]
Public Toilet [Fruit Chan]
Happy Together [Wong Kar-Wai]
Swimming Pool [Francois Ozon]
Lan Yu [Stanley Kwan]
Brief Crossing [Catherine Breillat]
The Son [Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne]
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Can't be bothered by suitors because she falls for friends

Niño Mark Sablan & September Mahino

DEAR Mark and Sep,

I have many guy friends and they all confide in me. My problem is that I cannot control my feelings. I fall in love with some of my guy friends because they are so special to me. But they only treat me either as a best friend or a baby sis.

What really confuses me is that when other guys attempt to court me, I hesitate and would not [let] them. I really don't know what to do about my feelings. How can I [convince myself] that my friends are plain friends and nothing more than that?

PLUTONG TUBIG

Shame on you for falling for your friends, when you know that there is no pastel future for you together! Not only are you sticking a rusty needle into your heart, you are also committing some sort of polygamy!

If you love yourself to bits, don't be like a flypaper, letting hurt and pain stick to you. Risks are cool and exciting. Embracing the unknown is challenging, blah blah blah. But if you end up a tear-stained face every day, you need to enroll in some meditation class.

Summon goosebumps whenever your male friends accidentally touch your chin. Play that lovely instrumental when you see them approaching you in slow-mo. Indulge in *kilig* and momentary sexual attraction, but don't complicate things by falling in love with someone who's just going to look at you the way he regards a puppy.

Knowing how you easily fall for your *kumpadres*, befriend those guys who want to give you the stars and the planets. Once close and chummy-chummy, you'll most probably find it easier to accept the heavenly bodies they offer.

MARK

The warning bells that you hear inside your head and your heart whenever a guy begins to court you is simply your way of weeding out defective or unsatisfactory species of the opposite sex. And it is your prerogative to pay attention to them—the warning bells, that is.

But if you turn away admirers because you're waiting for one of your pals to sober up one day and to look at you in a different light, then you need to get a more realistic view of the whole situation.

It's good to realize that you need to deal with your feelings. Before you do anything, remember this: Feelings can be controlled. Sure, they're spontaneous and they can seem irrational and inopportune, and they can really cause headaches and heartaches lots of times, but with reflection, rationalization and discipline, you can change them to benefit yourself. Falling in love may seem to be beyond your control, but actually, you pick the people you fall in love with and you decide when you will fall in love with them.

M. Scott Peck gave a clearer exposition on "love as a decision" in "The Road Less Taken," so I suggest you try to read that book, if only to give you more confidence that you can master your emotions. Bottom line is, you may not have control over other people's feelings, but you can talk yourself out of falling in love with them, especially if doing so would be futile and pointless.

Why don't you befriend the guy who wants to court you? Who knows, you might fall in love with him, too, and this time, it would be easier on your knees.

SEPTEMBER

E-mail the authors at markandsep@yahoo.com

CHANGE THE WORLD

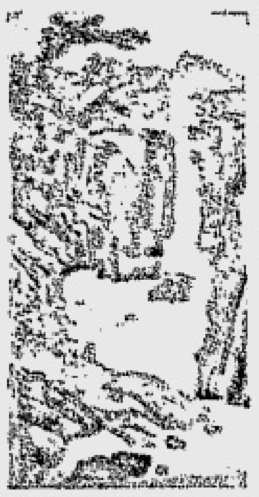
"Having Down Syndrome does not mean you're doomed for life"

Text and photos by Cheryl Tiu
2bU! Correspondent

THE COMMON misconception is that a person with Down Syndrome is born mentally retarded. People often think the condition is communicable, uncontrollable and irreversible.

All these are false. In fact, Down Syndrome and normal children have the same brain cells. The only difference is a Down Syndrome child has an extra chromosome—47 instead of 46. The extra chromosome produces ammonia that destroys brain cells and retards physical, intellectual and language development.

Genevieve Yang Chung, 17, an incoming senior at the Hong Kong International School, encountered children with Down Syndrome when she did volunteer work in Hong Kong this summer. Deciding she wanted to help, she held an exhibit of her Chinese watercolor paintings on Aug. 2 at Discovery Suites, to promote Down Syndrome awareness in the Philippines.



ONE of Genevieve's paintings

"My aunt told me that the [Down Syndrome] situation in the Philippines was far worse. The Down Syndrome Association in the Philippines doesn't even have an office. She also [said Filipinos] were not even aware of the term. So I decided to... hold an exhibit [and] invite people not only to see my paintings, but also to be aware of the Down Syndrome situation," she said.

At the exhibit, almost 200 guests pledged their support to the association and interacted with three Down Syndrome children who shared their experiences.

ELMER Lapena, Down Syndrome Associati[illegible] Philippines president; Ryan Dee, G[illegible] Chung, Kayla Sy, Betty Sy [illegible] sia

Through her paintings, Chung tried to let people know that having Down Syndrome "doesn't mean [children] can't lead a normal life. They can still enjoy art and appreciate other cultures."

Acceptance

Wisdom and Betty Sy, parents of Kayla, a two-year-old girl with Down Syndrome, have learned to understand and accept.

Adorable and energetic, Kayla doesn't have the classic signs of the syndrome.

"[When we first found out] we grieved," Wisdom admitted. "[We felt] as though all our dreams were shattered... like our daughter had just died."

The couple turned to God, and through prayer and with the help of physical and occupational therapies, they realized that Down Syndrome did not bring death but rather represented hope, strength, comfort, and many possibilities.

"When parents see their child [with] Down Syndrome, but still [consider him/her] their child, it makes a big difference," Betty said. "Most parents give up on their child or give him/her away. But when I started praying, I realized it was really He who gave [Kayla] the blessing to do the things she does... and I see that God has a purpose, that He has a mission and that's why He gave her to us.

"It's a lot of hard work," she added, "but she teaches me some of the most important things in life—patience, perseverance, unconditional love and compassion."

Although a person with Down Syndrome generally has straight, thin hair, small nose and broad face, the only real difference between him/her and other children is that the latter would grow at a normal pace. A Down Syndrome child, on the other hand, would develop a lot slower.

But both children can reach their full potential with the right nurturing, love and support.

Chung said, through her art, "I want people to be more compassionate toward [those with Down Syndrome, [and I want them to understand that it] doesn't mean you are doomed for life."

Contact the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines Inc. at 895-9642 or 895-3606, or e-mail at dsapi@hotmail.com. Visit the website at www.downsyndrome.ph.freeservers.com

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

A nest of endearing characters and beautiful music

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

BASED on the book by Anthony Drewe, Honk! is the musical version of Hans Christian Andersen's tale "The Ugly Duckling." It has won three Best Musical awards: the 2000 Laurence Olivier Award, the FNB VITA Award in South Africa, and the Elliot Norton Award in the USA.

The local production is directed by Chari Arespacochaga for the well-known Christian theater company, Trumpets.

Synopsis

Drake and Ida, proud parents-to-be, eagerly await the hatching of four eggs. Three perfectly yellow ducklings soon come out, and Drake happily leads them out for their first swim. But one egg—an unusually large orange one—remains intact.

When Ugly, a large brown bird, finally waddles out of his shell with a loud "Honk!", the rest of the farm ridicule him, with only Ida taking his side.

Desperate to be accepted, Ugly vainly tries to quack like his siblings. Cat, who has been eyeing Ugly in hopes of eating him for lunch, befriends him and leads him out of the farm and straight into the kitchen, but Ugly escapes.

He then tries to find his way back home and meets a lot of quirky characters along the way, among them the military-minded Greylag the Goose, as well as Queenie the Cat and Lowbutt the Chicken, domesticated animals who are used to "civilized" standards of living.

Along his journey, Ugly rescues Penny, the beautiful swan who invites him to join her flock as they migrate for the winter. But he chooses to stay behind to search for his mom.

Bullfrog soon jumps in front of him and realizes that Ugly has a huge inferiority complex about his appearance. He teaches Ugly to love himself for who he is, "warts and all."

Ugly then gets entangled in a farmer's net. Cat appears and offers him a deal: He'll free Ugly from the net if he agrees to be eaten after seeing his mom for one last time. Ugly agrees, and on their way home, gets buried beneath a snowdrift. Ida comes across Ugly's snow lump and thinks her son is dead. Her tears melt the snow and Ugly emerges—now a beautiful swan.

Contemporary musical

Undoubtedly, Honk! is a musical for these contemporary times, as references to TV and cell phones are scattered throughout the story.

The script is also witty, with most of it actually succeeding in being funny, considering the differences between Pinoy and British humor.

Many elements meshed well together to give Honk! Philippines great entertainment value. Set and costume designer Gino Gonzales gave his all to make the musical a truly visual experience. The sets and the props appeared deliberately simple to drive the audience's focus on the story and music.

Instead of seeing an overwhelming plethora of bird life, the audience was treated to a palette of colors on stage, although it might take a few seconds to realize what animals the actors were supposed to represent.

Nevertheless, this wardrobe decision works, because the characters became more "human" and less, well, ducky.

Childhood heroes

Classic themes permeate this musical fairy tale. Like many childhood heroes, Ugly represents the struggle to be free from the norm and to embrace one's uniqueness.

Carlo Orosa, who played Ugly during opening night, was a joy to watch as he sings about the great things that come with being different.

Honk! also celebrates the joys and struggles of motherhood, as Ida the Duck chooses to love Ugly in spite of his unconventional appearance. I personally enjoyed the regal performance of Carla Martinez (Ida), who delivers her role with skill and aplomb.

Tight ensemble pieces, under the musical direction of Rony Fortich and the choreography of James Laforteza, were the foundation that held this musical together.

In an eggshell, Honk! is truly the musical of the moment.

Honk! runs at the Meralco Theater on the following dates: 8 p.m.: Aug. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and Sept. 5, 6; 3 p.m.: Aug. 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31. Tickets available at National Book Stores' Ticketworld outlets (tel. 891-5610).

E-mail the author at cathy_young1@yahoo.com

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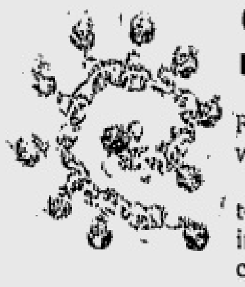
THE BUZZ

what's up in your school?



STUDENTS from 4CA2 of the Communication Arts Department of UST are buzzing about Reena Lorilla's creations.

The 20-year old (who also modelled for 2bU! Rocks The Ramp last year) has jumped on the entrepreneurial bandwagon by coming out with cute charm bracelets.

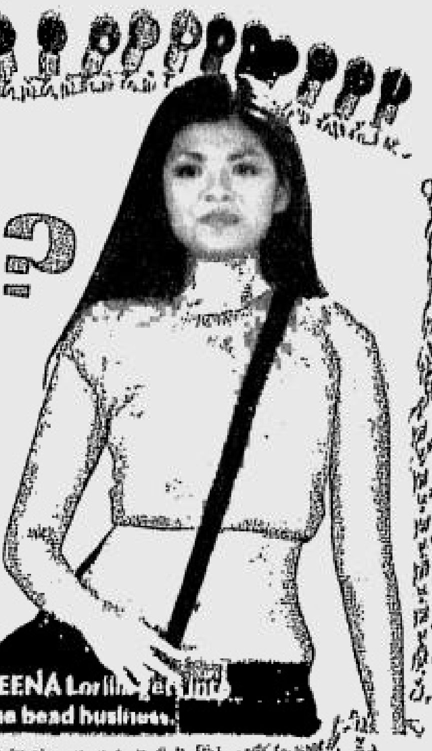
It may have started out as a hobby, but now, she's planning to venture into business and putting her creations on the selling block. These bracelets use a simple charm chain, and you can pick out the gems you like. Bracelets go for 100 to 120 bucks a pop, and the earrings for 50.

Interested? E-mail Reena at Renee_gay@yahoo.com.

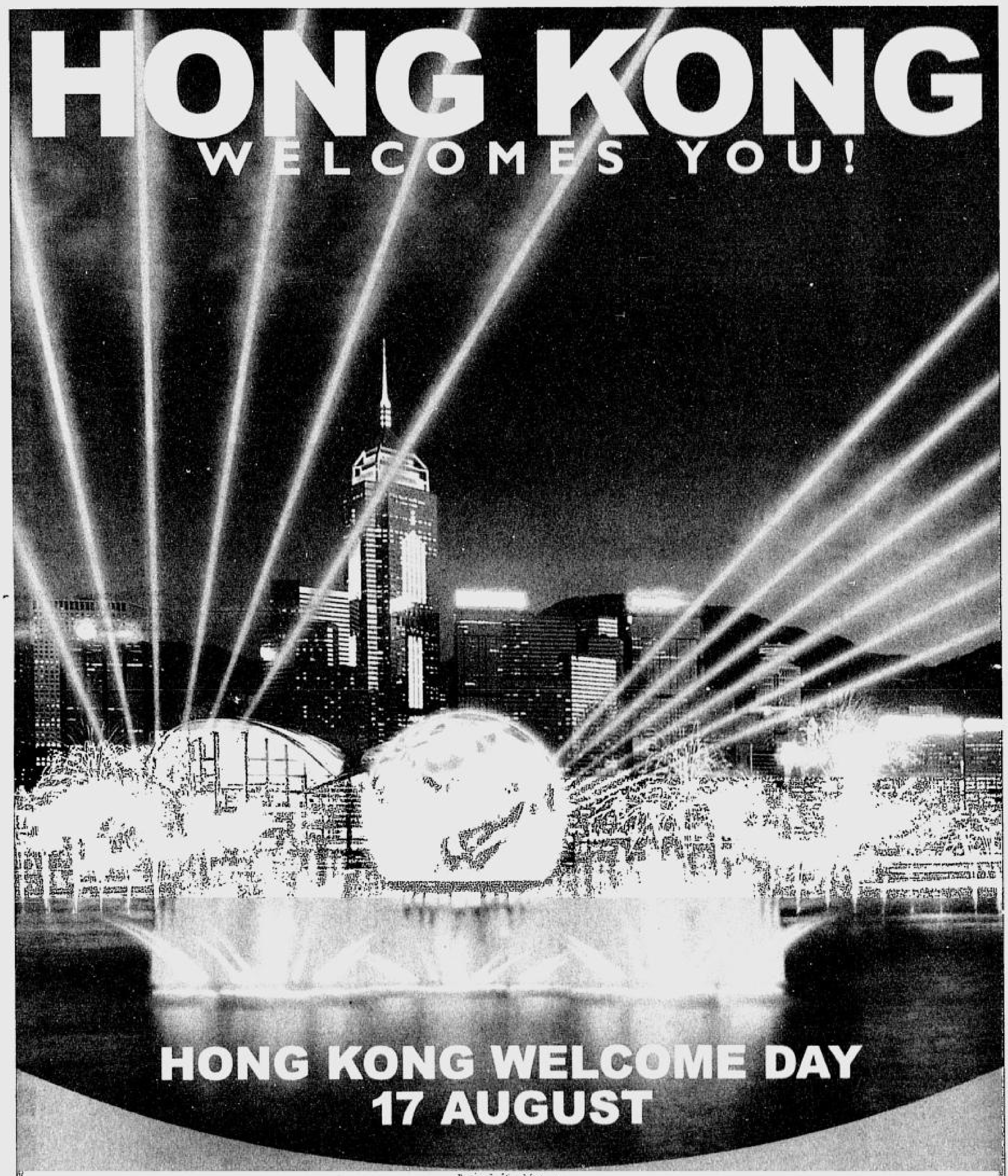
Maui V. Reyes

See that purple bracelet up there? We're giving that away. Just tell us what you ate this morning for breakfast and why, and e-mail us at **contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** on or before Aug. 11, 12 noon.

Psst, students, this is your space. Send us what you're raving and ranting about in your school to ***ls_2bu@inquirer.com.ph.***



REENA Lorilla [illegible] the bead business.



Don't miss the spectacular Hong Kong Welcome Day! See a host of fun activities and programmes lined-up for you. Check out the enhanced flag-raising ceremony or the launch of Strato-Fantasia: an elaborate laser show at Wanchai waterfront!

Make the most of your stay with the Welcome Passport. Packed with a host of exclusive offers on dining, shopping, cultural highlights and tours from over 60 merchants!

Catch one of these exciting 'Hong Kong Welcomes You' Promotion events!

1. Hong Kong Super Draw (1 Aug - 30 Sept) - Win up to US$7 million in prizes including air tickets and other fabulous prizes.
2. Strato-Fantasia (17 Aug - 15 Sept) - World premiere of 65-foot pearl-shaped stratosphere - A multi-media spectacular laser show on the Victoria Harbour.

The fun doesn't end here! Check out our other Mega Events Series like the Mid-Autumn Lantern Celebration, Hong Kong WinterFest, International Chinese New Year Night Parade and the Avenue of Stars pre-launch.

Don't miss the whirlwind of excitement! For more information on Hong Kong visit DiscoverHongKong.com

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Win even more HBO Goodies!

WE'RE giving away more HBO goodies to fans of the original series of "Six Feet Under" (if you're not a fan, then park your booty in front of the TV every Tuesday night at 10)!

Just answer the poll below and send to **contest2bu@inqurier.com.ph**, on or before Aug. 11 at noon. The first 10 people to send in their answers get to bring home the loot.

Everyone in the Fisher family has some serious gripe. When you think of your life so far, do you feel fulfilled?

0 Yes 0 No

Given a chance, would you wish to start a new life with a new identity in a new location?

0 Yes 0 No

When Nathaniel Fisher became a victim in an unexpected tragic accident, he is portrayed as being freed from the cares of the world. Do you believe that death is a form of escape?

0 Yes 0 No

Nate discovers he has a tumor in his brain and he is terrified. Are you afraid of dying?

0 Yes 0 No

Nathaniel Fisher is constantly hanging around to offer his gems of wisdom to his son, Nate. Have you ever had a similar experience where you received advice from people who have passed away?

0 Yes 0 No

WIN Ataris CDs!

OOPS! We made a booboo when we printed the contest address two weeks ago (no wonder we didn't get any mail!). Having gotten over the thought that you guys don't love us and refuse to join our Ataris contest, we're giving you another chance to bring one of these three Ataris "So Long Astoria" CDs, so you can spin their singles "In This Diary" and "Boys of Summer" over and over and over again. Just send us your best diary/blog entry to **contest2bu@inquirer.com.ph** on or before Aug. 11 at 12 noon. Yes, we've checked the address twice. Go send in your entries now.

We have winners!

THESE lucky people have bagged the prizes from last week's issue:

A.K.A. CD Promo

The speakers of Philip Lanuzo, Bianca Consunji and Harriett Jorday Contreras will soon be blasting out the songs from the "Almost Kinda Acoustic" CD.

"The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" Promo

Kemp A. Pe, Patricia Mangahas, Jessica Gamboa will soon be enjoying Ann Brashares' book.

Winners may claim their prizes at the PDI Building, Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati, on Mondays, from 5 p.m. onwards. Please call 8978808 and look for Pam or Jason before you drop by.

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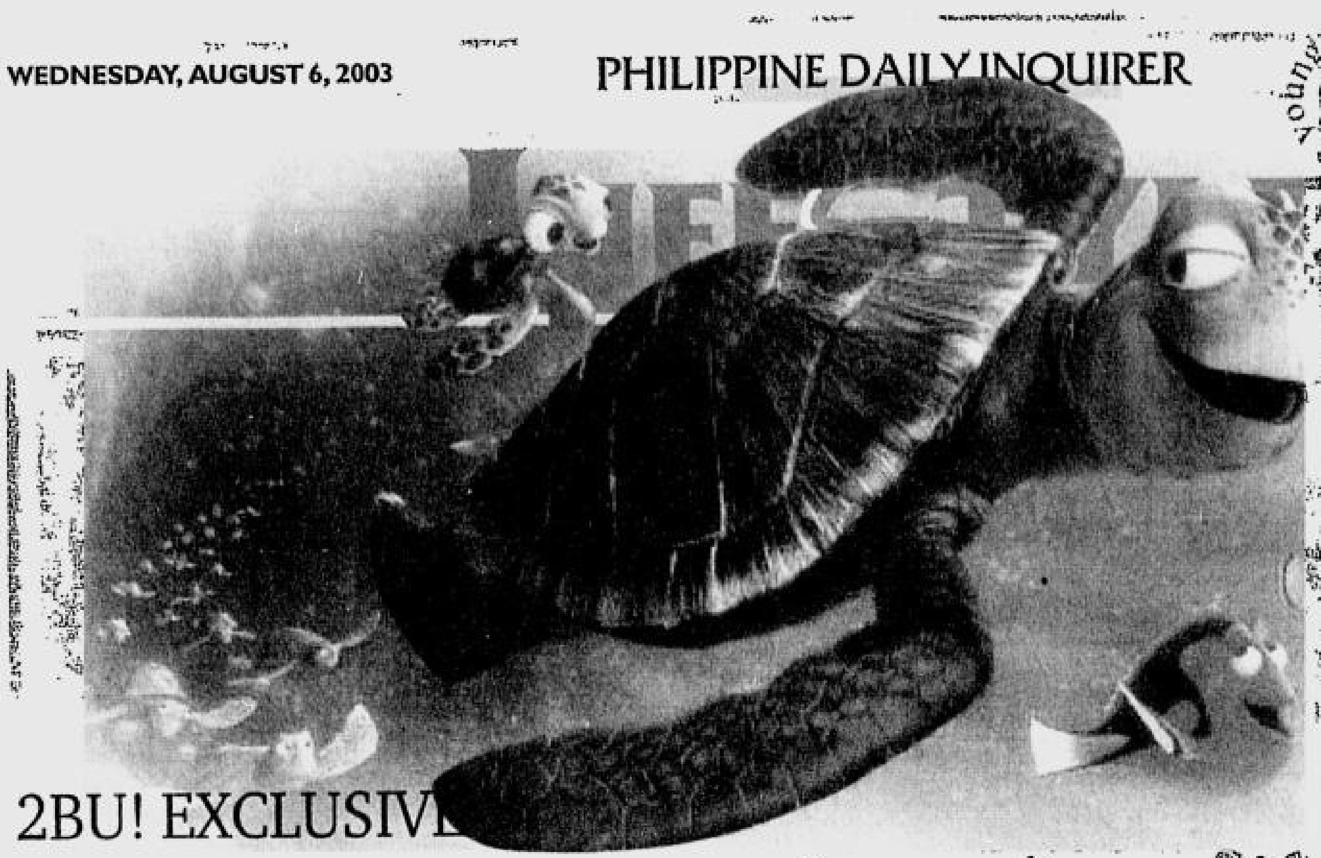

2BU! EXCLUSIVE

Live action vs. animation films: what's the real score?

By Ruben V. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—John Lasseter's office at Pixar Animation Studios' old facility was a toy collector and animation film lover's paradise. It was crammed with merchandise from Pixar's promo tie-ins with fast food franchises and original clay models of those wonderful characters from earlier movies, "Toy Story" and "A Bug's Life" (which he both directed).

Pixar has since moved to a new facility in Emeryville north of San Francisco, but Lasseter's office reportedly continues to be a lair worthy of the head honcho of the most innovative, cleverest animation studio in the world today.

2bU! talked to Lasseter about Pixar's latest blockbuster, "Finding Nemo," the underwater tale presented by Disney.

Did being a scuba diver (since 1980) help you?

I encouraged everybody involved in a major way with this movie to become a certified scuba diver. I wanted (them) to experience what it was like being underwater. It is spectacular. I knew that this movie was perfect for our medium of computer animation. We at Pixar kind of invented and developed it.

With computer animation, I knew the underwater lighting would be fantastic—the depth of the water, distance, swell, the fish themselves, their scales, the translucency of their fins...

I love the character of Dory, the Ellen DeGeneres character with short-term memory. This was inspired by our research finding that certain types of tropical fish basically have three- or four-second memory and that's it! So they absolutely live in the moment which is wonderful. So we have Dory, a character living her life from moment to moment, guiding Marlin, Nemo's father, who is nurturing his memory of a great family loss. Marlin completely controls his life while his new friend, Dory, has no memory.

The other character I love is the sea turtle. (While you can understand an overprotective father,) in the case of sea turtles, the mothers crawl on the beach, lay their eggs, cover them up and go back to the ocean. The little babies have to find their way to the ocean.

How challenging was it to make a computer-animated film set underwater?

It was really hard. But we had a clear vision of what we needed... we had to get water right. Water is so hard to do with the computer, yet the artists did an amazing job. The other challenge was the character design—giving the characters the expressive faces needed in animation. You do not want to put human-like faces on the sea creatures.

The eyes are very important. If you look at every Pixar film, the eyes are quite big. The eyes are the windows to the character's soul. There's so much acting (from) the eyes and we really want the expression to come from (them).

How does Pixar select its voice actors?

The most important thing is how good they are as actors. How their voice matches the personality we want. We don't ever ask actors to speak in voices other than their own. We are looking for that natural quality. Also, we love actors who have the ability to ad lib. To make a character their own.

We always record the dialogue before we do the animation. We also do numerous recording sessions as the story develops. On your first session, you're just getting to know the actor, then (when) they come back, things are written more specifically for them, giving them room to ad lib... We don't really care how big a star they are because... we sell the movie on the strength of the story and the characters. By choosing an actor (based) on how good he is and how well he ad libs, it really does influence the character in a wonderful way. Albert Brooks, for example, is fantastic as the Dad fish. He's like a neurotic character who could be really annoying but Albert just made it so appealing.

What's the secret behind Pixar's success?

Hard work. It takes four years to make one of these films. I'm really proud of the fact that all of our film stories are original. The two films we have in production after "Nemo" are original as well... We don't base our movies on books or anything like that.

Pixar is not like the other animation studios. Executives (don't) dictate what the story is going to be, and then match a director to it, sort of like filmmaking by executive committee.

"Finding Nemo" is a story that came from director Andrew Stanton's heart. It's a very important part of him.

My job is to protect that vision and to help him and make it great.

We have a love of our medium, computer animation. We are inspired by the technology but the story is the most important thing.

Art challenges technology. Technology inspires the art. You come up with an idea... then you challenge the guys (to) figure it out. There's a real collaboration between the technical artists and the animators. The line be-

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'A film is a film. You want to entertain the audience from beginning to end'

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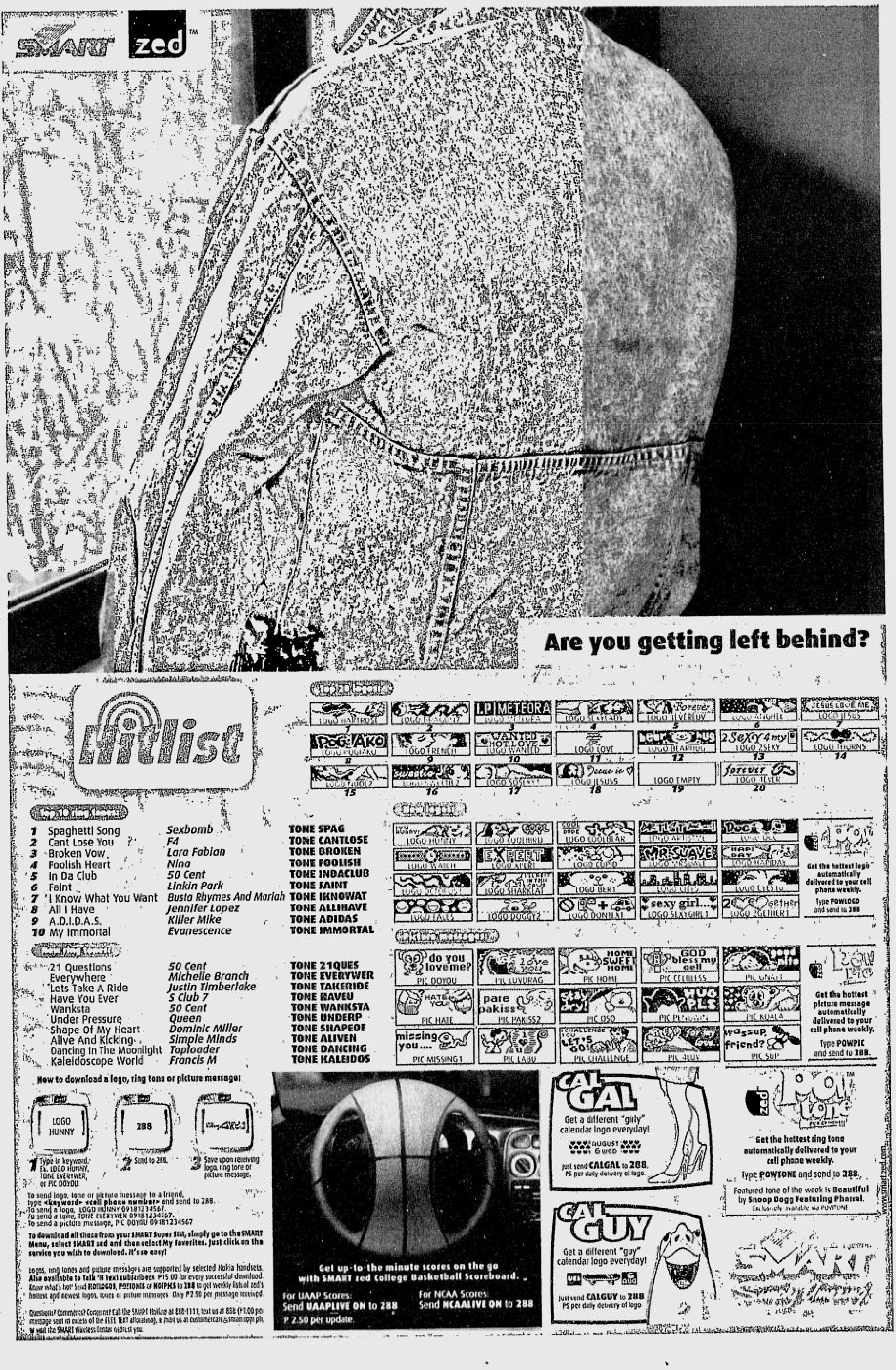
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Hitlist

1	Spaghetti Song	Sexbomb	TONE SPAG
2	Cant Lose You	F4	TONE CANTLOSE
3	Broken Vow	Lara Fabian	TONE BROKEN
4	Foolish Heart	Nina	TONE FOOLISH
5	In Da Club	50 Cent	TONE INDACLUB
6	Faint	Linkin Park	TONE FAINT
7	I Know What You Want	Busta Rhymes And Mariah	TONE IKNOWAT
8	All I Have	Jennifer Lopez	TONE ALLIHAVE
9	A.D.I.D.A.S.	Killer Mike	TONE ADIDAS
10	My Immortal	Evanescence	TONE IMMORTAL
	21 Questions	50 Cent	TONE 21QUES
	Everywhere	Michelle Branch	TONE EVERYWER
	Lets Take A Ride	Justin Timberlake	TONE TAKERIDE
	Have You Ever	S Club 7	TONE HAVEU
	Wanksta	50 Cent	TONE WANKSTA
	Under Pressure	Queen	TONE UNDERP
	Shape Of My Heart	Dominic Miller	TONE SHAPEOF
	Alive And Kicking	Simple Minds	TONE ALIVEN
	Dancing In The Moonlight	Toploader	TONE DANCING
	Kaleidoscope World	Francis M	TONE KALEIDOS

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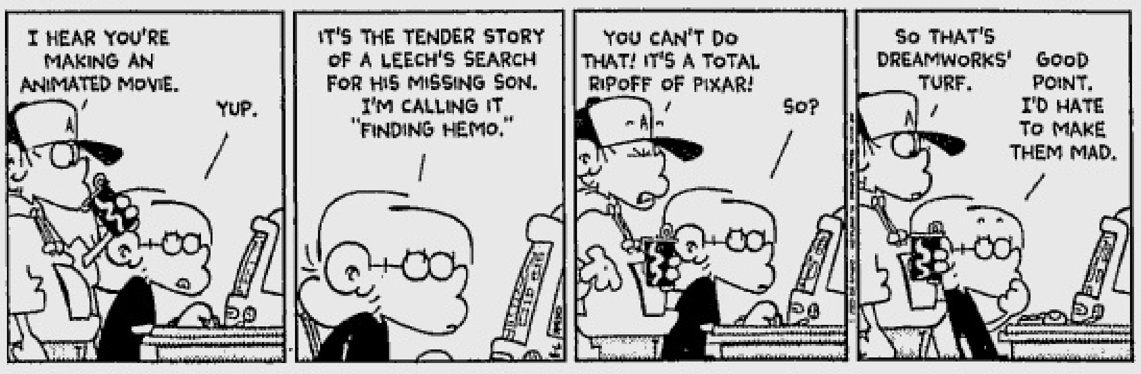
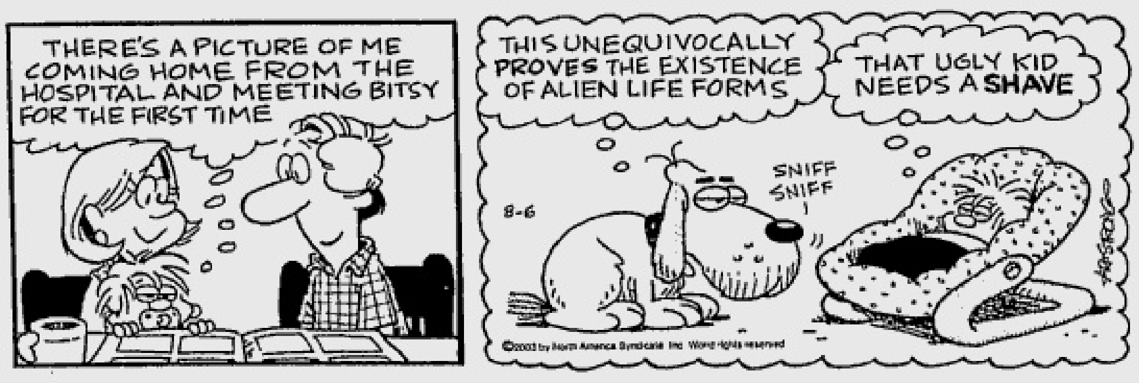

I HEAR YOU'RE MAKING AN ANIMATED MOVIE.
YUP.
IT'S THE TENDER STORY OF A LEECH'S SEARCH FOR HIS MISSING SON. I'M CALLING IT "FINDING HEMO."
YOU CAN'T DO THAT! IT'S A TOTAL RIPOFF OF PIXAR!
SO?
SO THAT'S DREAMWORKS' TURF.
GOOD POINT. I'D HATE TO MAKE THEM MAD.

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


THERE'S A PICTURE OF ME COMING HOME FROM THE HOSPITAL AND MEETING BITSY FOR THE FIRST TIME
THIS UNEQUIVOCALLY PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF ALIEN LIFE FORMS
THAT UGLY KID NEEDS A SHAVE
SNIFF SNIFF
8-6
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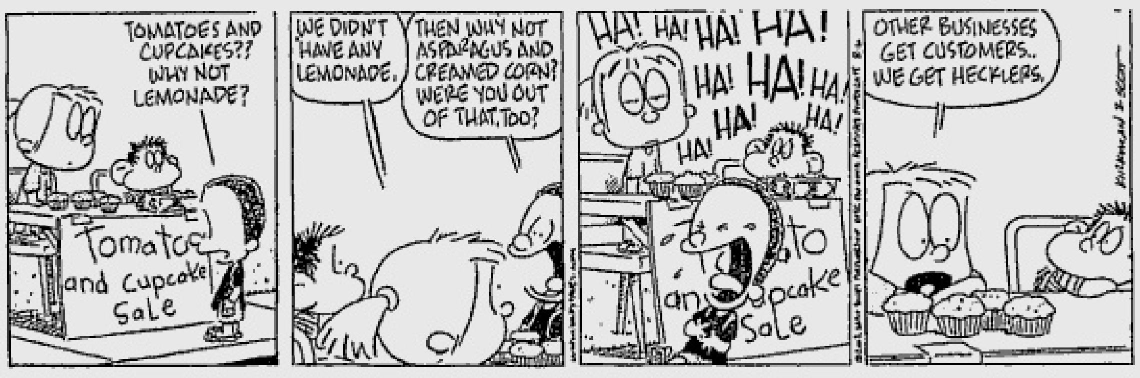
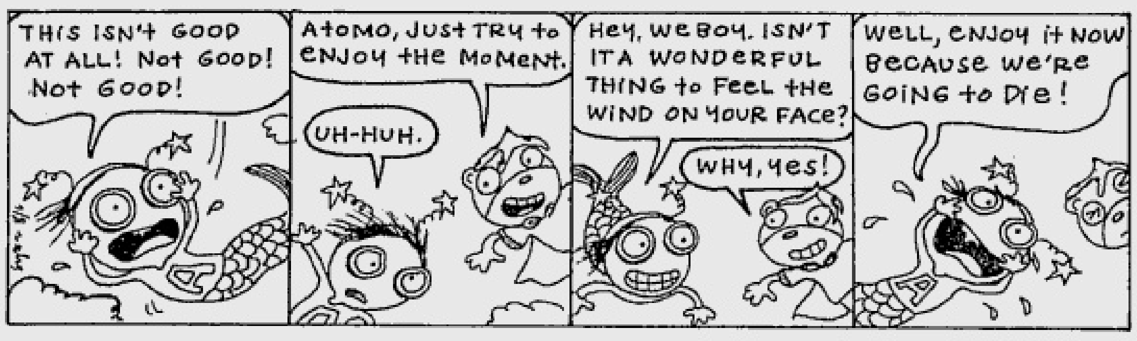
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


TOMATOES AND CUPCAKES?? WHY NOT LEMONADE?
Tomatoes and Cupcake Sale
WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY LEMONADE.
THEN WHY NOT ASPARAGUS AND CREAMED CORN? WERE YOU OUT OF THAT, TOO?
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
OTHER BUSINESSES GET CUSTOMERS.. WE GET HECKLERS.

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL! NOT GOOD! NOT GOOD!
ATOMO, JUST TRY TO ENJOY THE MOMENT.
UH-HUH.
HEY, WEBOY. ISN'T IT A WONDERFUL THING TO FEEL THE WIND ON YOUR FACE?
WHY, YES!
WELL, ENJOY IT NOW BECAUSE WE'RE GOING TO DIE!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are highly original. People find you fascinating, and you, in turn, enjoy a stimulating life. You want to taste, touch, smell and feel it all. Divine chance often plays a role in your life. This year is an exciting year for you because it holds new, fresh beginnings.
Birthdate of: Lucille Ball, entertainer; Andy Warhol, pop artist; Geri Halliwell, singer/actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't go looking for a fight with anybody at work today. Be patient. (You know how you can be.) Today is simply an argument waiting to happen somewhere.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be patient with friends and children today. People need to release a lot of built-up energy, and much of it will come out as anger.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Yikes! Be careful talking to bosses, parents, authority figures and the police. People want to flex their muscles today. Do you need this? No, you don't.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's extremely important to take extra precautions when driving, biking, jogging or walking today. Your energy is so determined and focused, you could miss what is going on around you.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Arguments about money, possessions or work-related matters are highly likely. You might feel somebody else is accusing you of something. Don't react immediately. Think about your response.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Did you know that the origin of the word "scruples" is "to hesitate"? Therefore, people with scruples give a sober, second thought to what they say or do. Be as scrupulous as you can today!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You feel unusually combative at work today. You've got an agenda, and you want to keep to it. Furthermore, you have zero tolerance for any opposition from anyone. Gosh—does this sound flexible?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be patient with exuberant, active children today. Furthermore, show tolerance to friends and groups you are dealing with as well. Someone is looking for a fight. You need this like a fish needs a bicycle.

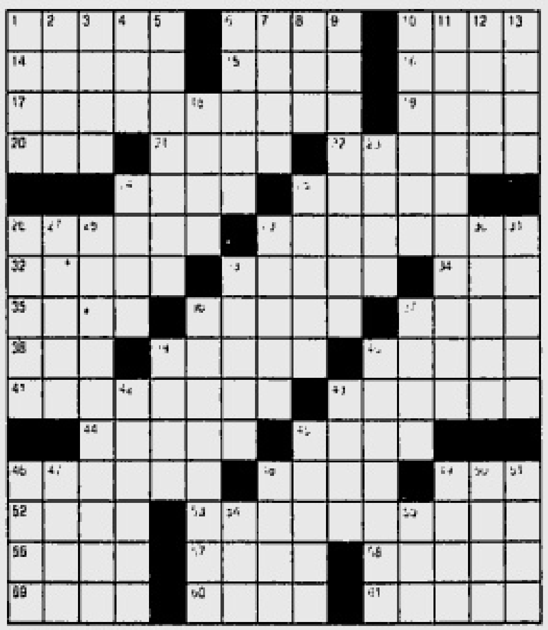
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Domestic arguments are likely today. You might want to give somebody a piece of your mind. Actually, you should keep every piece of your mind for yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Nasty day for snide comments to or from relatives and siblings. People are sending out hostile signals everywhere! Do not contribute to this.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Aggression, hostility and resentment about money and possessions are likely today. They can swallow you up if you let them! Avoid arguments with others about these matters. Wait until another day.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might feel like the totally innocent victim of somebody else's aggression today. Ironically, your partner or a close friend might think the same thing about you. (Curious.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
8/6/03

ACROSS
1 False alarm
6 Surf suds
10 Bar in a tub
14 Venice thoroughfare
15 Gumbo ingredient
16 Adjust the dial
17 Short-circuited, perhaps
19 Sicilian spouter
20 Itsy-bitsy
21 Say yea or nay
22 Pandemonium
24 Selfsame
25 Anguish
26 Get one's bearings
29 X's in algebra
32 Wind indicators
33 Ermine in summer
34 Short trip
35 Bookie's concern
36 Whittles down
37 Dished out
38 Caesar's three
39 Ascend
40 Pie nut
41 Uncouple
43 Used an ATM
44 Treat roughly
45 Memorandum
46 Pulsates
48 First-rate
49 Comedic jest
52 Distinctive atmosphere
53 Wobbly
56 Land chart
57 Genuine
58 Ruminant of the Andes
59 Chimes in
60 Withered
61 Following

DOWN
1 Garbage boat
2 Rattan piece
3 Starter chips
4 Cheering word
5 Football team counts
6 Two score
7 Muskogee native
8 Gallery display
9 Polish folk dances
10 Multi-speaker sound system
11 Misaligned
12 Sigmund's daughter
13 Bartlett or Anjou
18 Stockade
23 Ale order
24 Two-finger signs
25 Folklore creature
26 Elliptical
27 Diameter halves
28 Jumbled up
29 Practical
30 Stellar explosions
31 While away
33 List of candidates
36 Cutting tools
37 Hereditary factor
39 Give the cold shoulder to
40 Kneecap
42 German subs
43 __ fide
45 Lordly
46 Faucets
47 Luau entertainment
48 Way off
49 Tiny flier
50 Wyle E. Coyote's gadgetry supplier
51 Equipment
54 Professional charge
55 Furry little TV alien

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	T	H	S	■	C	A	R	P	■	C	O	B	S
A	F	O	O	T	■	O	N	E	S	■	O	M	I	T
C	A	R	B	O	N	C	O	P	Y	■	P	A	P	A
E	R	E	■	N	E	O	N	■	C	I	P	H	E	R
■	■	■	S	E	R	A	■	T	H	R	E	A	D	S
U	M	P	I	R	E	■	W	O	O	E	R	■	■	■
C	E	I	L	■	I	C	O	N	■	S	P	A	W	N
L	O	C	I	■	D	A	U	N	T	■	I	S	E	E
A	W	A	C	S	■	G	L	E	E	■	P	E	A	R
■	■	■	O	O	H	E	D	■	A	F	E	A	R	D
S	T	A	N	L	E	Y	■	U	S	E	S	■	■	■
C	A	L	C	I	C	■	S	P	E	D	■	H	I	M
A	M	A	H	■	K	R	Y	P	T	O	N	I	T	E
M	I	M	I	■	L	O	N	E	■	R	O	L	E	S
S	L	O	P	■	E	W	E	R	■	A	R	O	M	A

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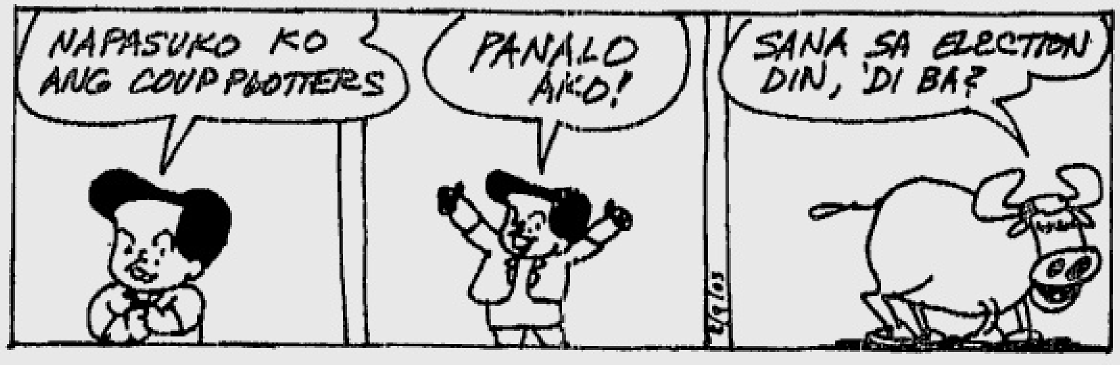
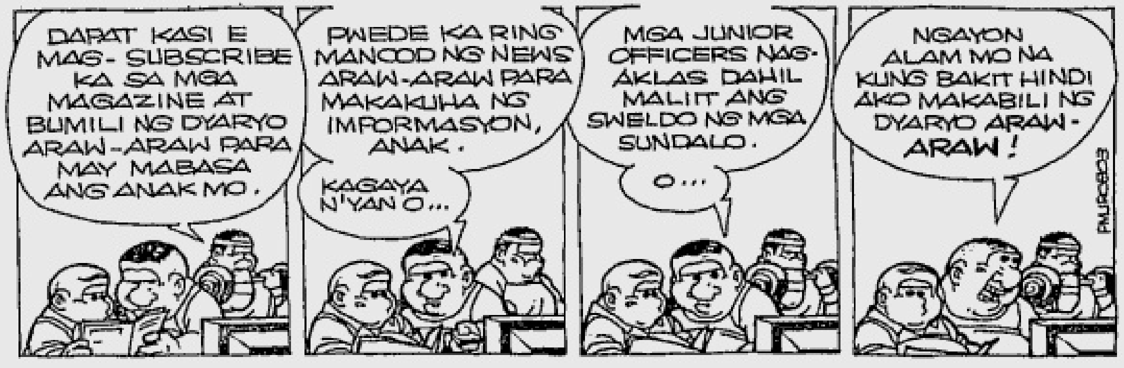
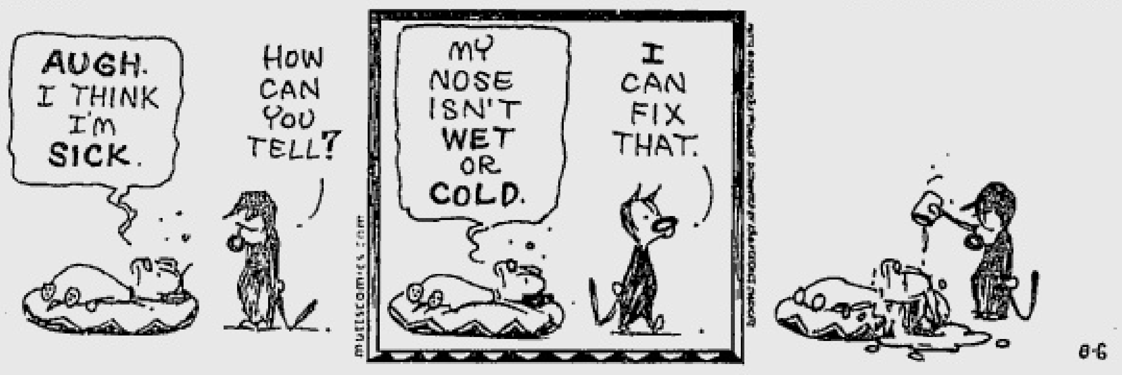
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NAPASUKO KO ANG COUP PLOTTERS
PANALO AKO!
SANA SA ELECTION DIN, 'DI BA?

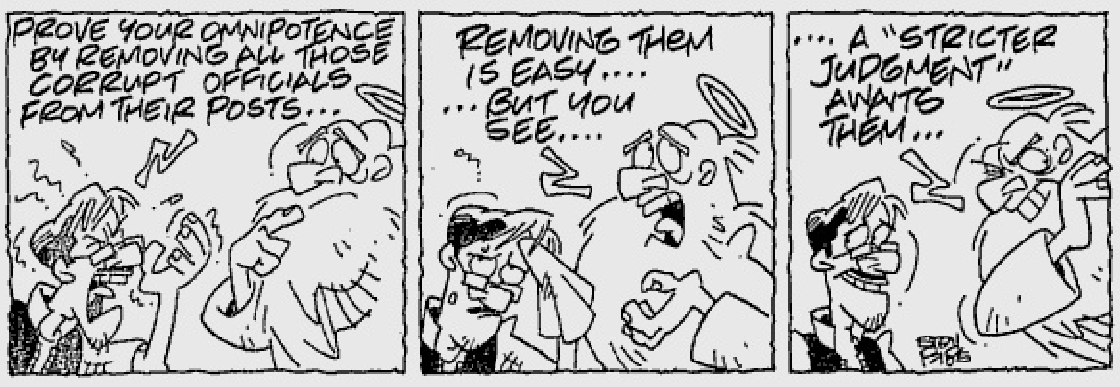
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


DAPAT KASI E MAG-SUBSCRIBE KA SA MGA MAGAZINE AT BUMILI NG DYARYO ARAW-ARAW PARA MAY MABASA ANG ANAK MO.
PWEDE KA RING MANOOD NG NEWS ARAW-ARAW PARA MAKAKUHA NG IMPORMASYON, ANAK.
KAGAYA N'YAN O...
MGA JUNIOR OFFICERS NAG-AKLAS DAHIL MALIIT ANG SWELDO NG MGA SUNDALO.
O...
NGAYON ALAM MO NA KUNG BAKIT HINDI AKO MAKABILI NG DYARYO ARAW-ARAW!
PMJR0803

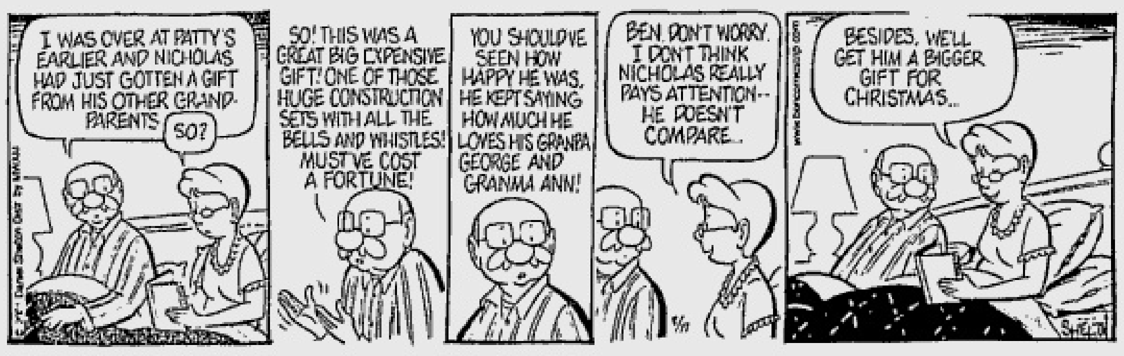
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AUGH. I THINK I'M SICK.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
MY NOSE ISN'T WET OR COLD.
I CAN FIX THAT.
muttscomics.com
8-6

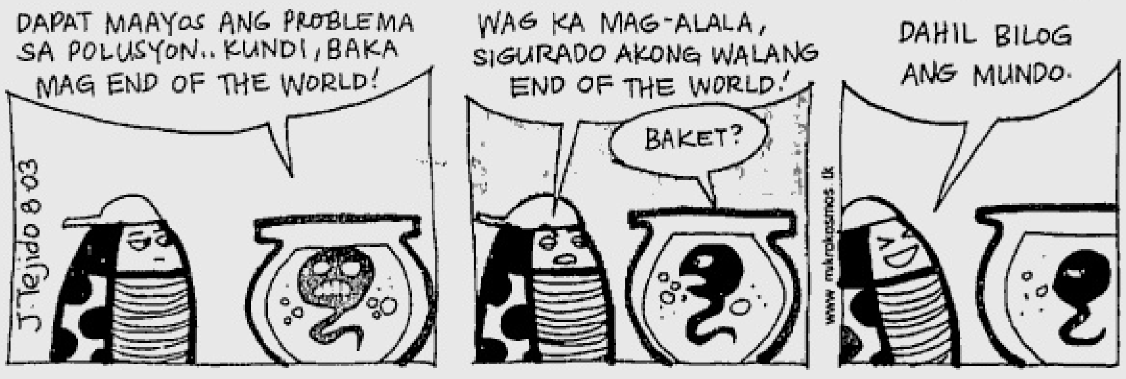
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PROVE YOUR OMNIPOTENCE BY REMOVING ALL THOSE CORRUPT OFFICIALS FROM THEIR POSTS...
REMOVING THEM IS EASY... ...BUT YOU SEE...
... A "STRICTER JUDGMENT" AWAITS THEM...

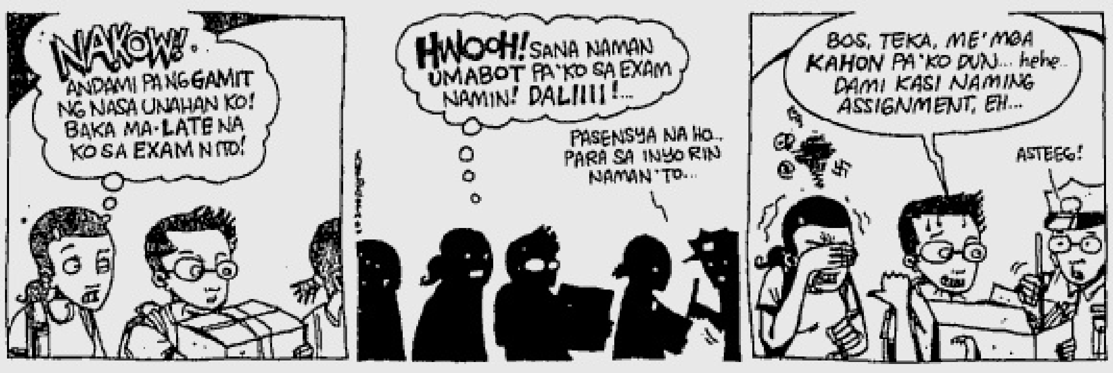
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


I WAS OVER AT PATTY'S EARLIER AND NICHOLAS HAD JUST GOTTEN A GIFT FROM HIS OTHER GRANDPARENTS
SO?
SO! THIS WAS A GREAT BIG EXPENSIVE GIFT! ONE OF THOSE HUGE CONSTRUCTION SETS WITH ALL THE BELLS AND WHISTLES! MUST'VE COST A FORTUNE!
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN HOW HAPPY HE WAS. HE KEPT SAYING HOW MUCH HE LOVES HIS GRANPA GEORGE AND GRANMA ANN!
BEN, DON'T WORRY. I DON'T THINK NICHOLAS REALLY PAYS ATTENTION-- HE DOESN'T COMPARE...
BESIDES, WE'LL GET HIM A BIGGER GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS...

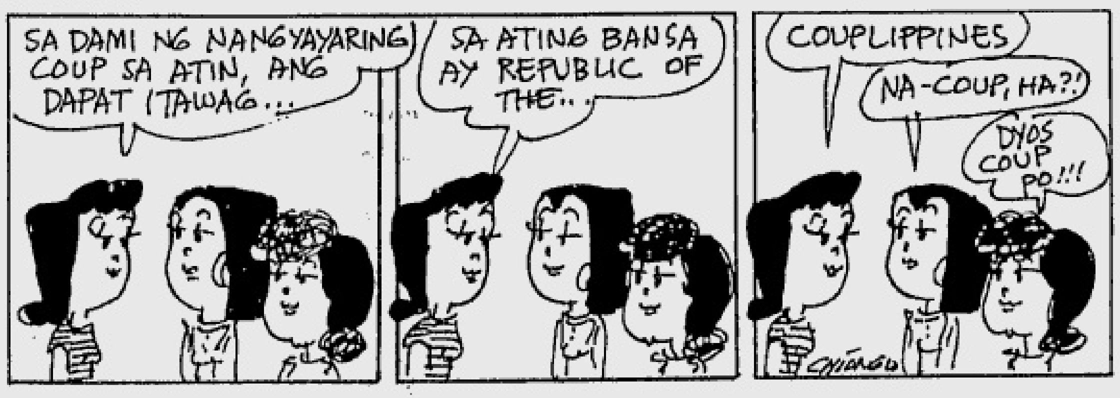
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


DAPAT MAAYOS ANG PROBLEMA SA POLUSYON.. KUNDI, BAKA MAG END OF THE WORLD!
J. Tejido 8 03
WAG KA MAG-ALALA, SIGURADO AKONG WALANG END OF THE WORLD!
BAKET?
www.mikrokosmos.tk
DAHIL BILOG ANG MUNDO.

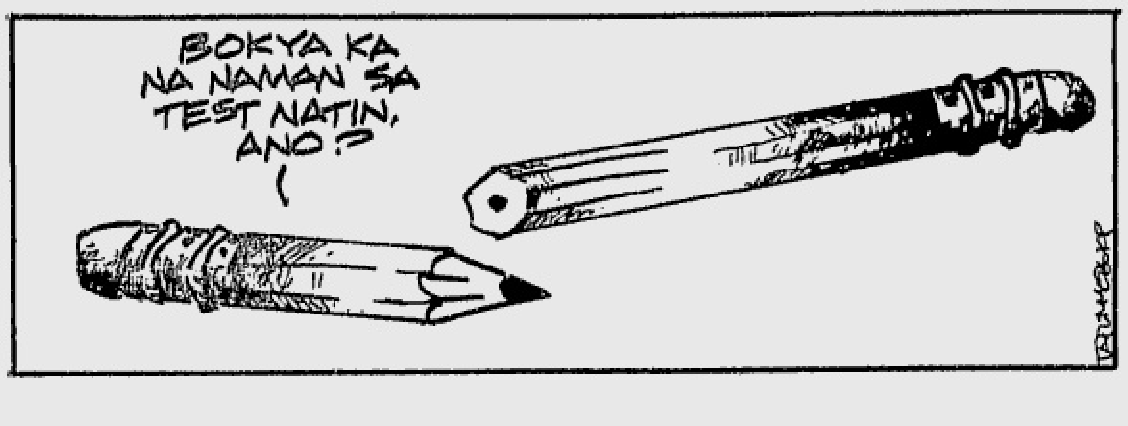
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


NAKOW!. ANDAMI PA NG GAMIT NG NASA UNAHAN KO! BAKA MA-LATE NA KO SA EXAM NITO!
HWOOH! SANA NAMAN UMABOT PA 'KO SA EXAM NAMIN! DALIIII!...
PASENSYA NA HO.. PARA SA INYO RIN NAMAN 'TO...
BOS, TEKA, ME' MGA KAHON PA 'KO DUN... hehe.. DAMI KASI NAMING ASSIGNMENT, EH...
ASTEEG!

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

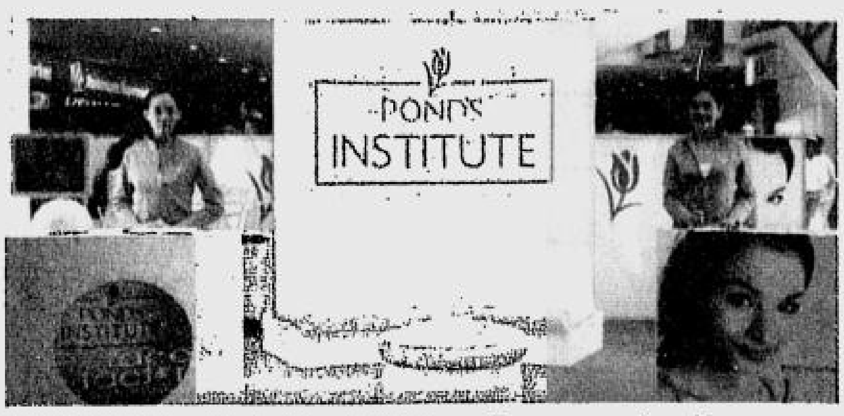

SA DAMI NG NANGYAYARING COUP SA ATIN, ANG DAPAT ITAWAG...
SA ATING BANSA AY REPUBLIC OF THE...
COUPLIPPINES
NA-COUP, HA?!
DYOS COUP PO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BOKYA KA NA NAMAN SA TEST NATIN, ANO?

Why *skin* cannot be taken at face value

By Jason Doplito
2bU! correspondent



THE POND'S Face Factor Beauty Challenge: Because your face deserves more than what your hard soap can give

"YOU don't use soap for your face," says beauty expert Abbygale Arenas. "If you notice, your facial skin is different from the rest of your body. It's a lot softer and more sensitive." She raises her forearm and places it near her face to demonstrate how exactly the two types of skin differ from each other. Of course, the disparity is too obvious; she has nice makeup on.

But seriously, the Pond's Face Factor Beauty Challenge is an eye-opener for people who don't give much attention to their faces. A survey conducted by the Pond's Institute shows that most Filipinas treat their facial skin the same way they treat the skin on their body.

According to brand manager Francis Flores, hard soaps only wash away surface dirt, but do not fight bacteria that usually cause pimples.

With Pond's Antibacterial Facial Scrub, pores are unclogged, leaving the skin "unbelievable soft, clean and pimple-free."

Of course, I have to verify this claim by subjecting myself to the challenge. Pond's has set up a Beauty Spa in the middle of the Powerplant Mall in Rockwell. I am whisked away and made to lie down on one of the lounge chairs so that a dermatologist can start prepping up my skin.

Nice feeling

First she let me smell her hands on which she has applied essential oil. "Sir, to make you feel relaxed," she explains. As I close my eyes I sense a flurry of camera flashbulbs targeted at me—part of the ordeal of being one of the first to try out this beauty spa. After that, I feel a very calming solution being applied on my face.

"Aah... that feels nice. Is that Pond's?" "No, cotton with water, sir," she replies.

Next, she uses Pond's Cold Cream in Lemon to remove traces of dirt in my face. Also, the lemon scent makes me feel as if my skin has just been disinfected. After that, the cream is cleansed away by the cotton and water combo. Then the anti-bacterial scrub is applied.

The facial scrub is okay. It has microgranules that, as the dermatologist explains, help in the exfoliation of dead skin cells. The scrub gives the skin that perfectly clean glow so people give you that second look.

Anyway, after a few more minutes of facial massage, I complete my Face Factor Beauty Challenge. I must admit that the change is quite noticeable especially if I touch my face. My fingers actually glide across the skin because it's a lot softer and silkier!

There are three other variations of the facial wash: the original one without the microscrubs, the Cleanser & Toner Facial Wash and the Refreshing Oil-Removing Scrub.

Of the three, I recommend the last one best. I notice that my skin feels a lot tighter, and therefore, less oily. It has mentholated microbeads so it cools the face right after washing.

I have yet to see, though, if there will be any visible transformation on my face over the next few days, especially if the wash does stop pimples. But from what I see in the mirror now, the future looks promising.

2bU! and Pond's will be giving away giftpacks to five lucky winners! Simply make a haiku about Pond's and send it to contest2bU@inquirer.com.ph before noon, Aug. 11.

Live action vs. animation...

From page D3

tween art and technology at Pixar is getting blurred.

You have been quoted as saying it doesn't matter whose idea it is at Pixar.

What matters is, it's the best idea that can be made. That is the rule that everyone understands at Pixar. When you walk through the doors of Pixar, you check in your ego at the door. It's not about ownership but about making a great movie—not about box-office (or) market shares. It's about, does the audience get swept away and enjoy every minute of the film and (say): "Wow, that was a great movie, I can't wait to see it again, I can't wait to tell my friends to go see it"?

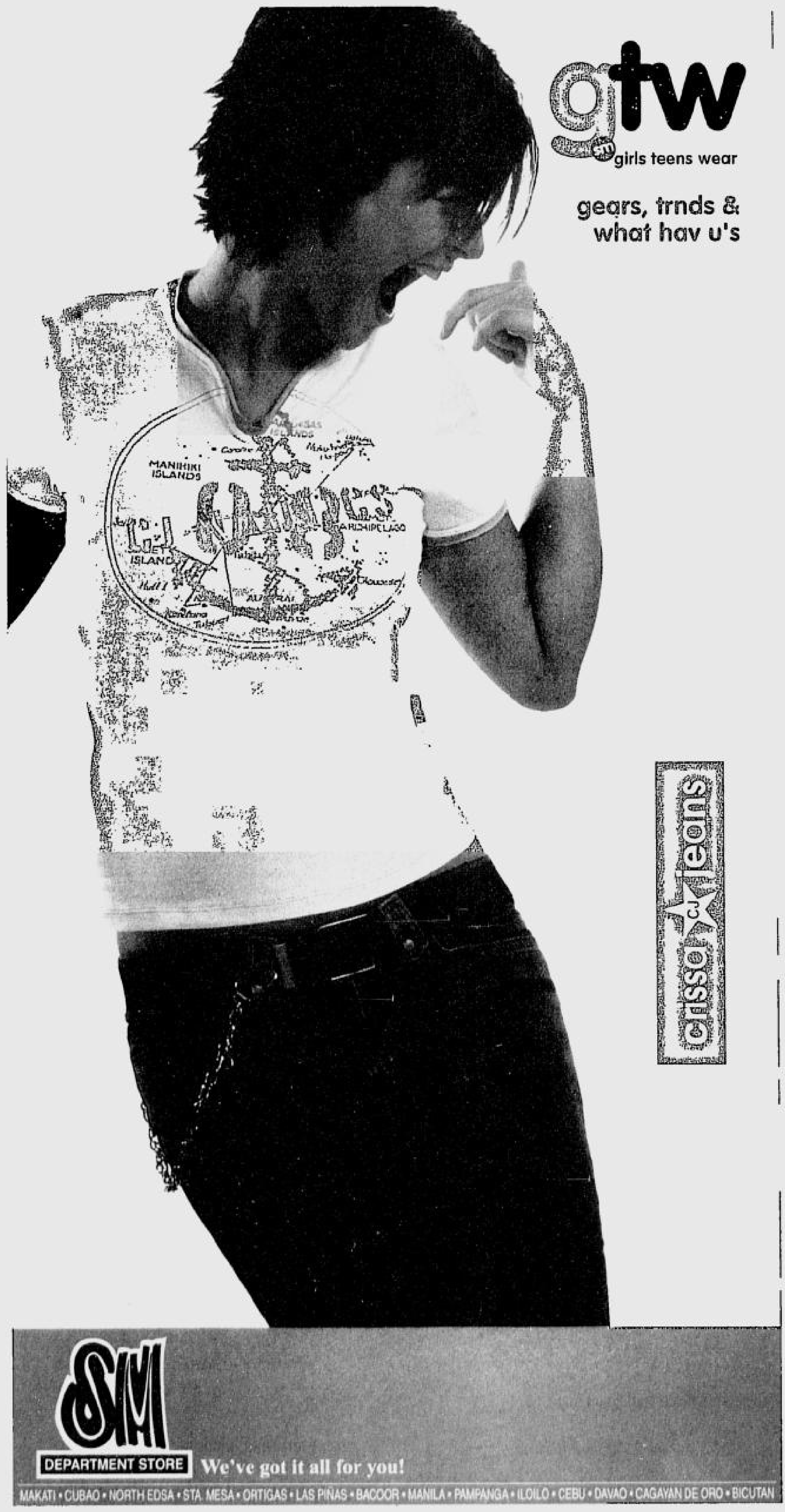
We're here to make a movie (that) a family would take the time to watch. It takes a lot of effort to take the entire family to see a movie. You have to carve out three hours of your life to get to the theater, buy the popcorn and get everybody settled. I'm the type who has to be there before the movie trailers start because I want to see them all. I can't tell you how many times I have been disappointed by the movie I watched. I vowed never to let one person in the whole world walk out of a Pixar movie, saying, "that was a waste of my time".

Should we keep drawing a line between animation and live action films even if film technology is blowing away traditional cinematic borders?

At Pixar, we don't think of our movies as animation. They are movies, period. They have characters, stories and emotion... Animation and live action films are shown in the same theaters, use the same projectors, the same screens, the same seats and you pay exactly the same amount at the box-office. Why should it be any different? A film is a film. You want to entertain the audience from beginning to end. Oftentimes, people think, it's an animation film —it's going to be cute, perky, and bouncy. No! Not necessarily.

What is the state of competition among studios making animation films?

I love our industry. I want all the animation studios to be really successful. The more studios making great animation films, the better... More animation studios means (more) opportunities to (more) talented artists.



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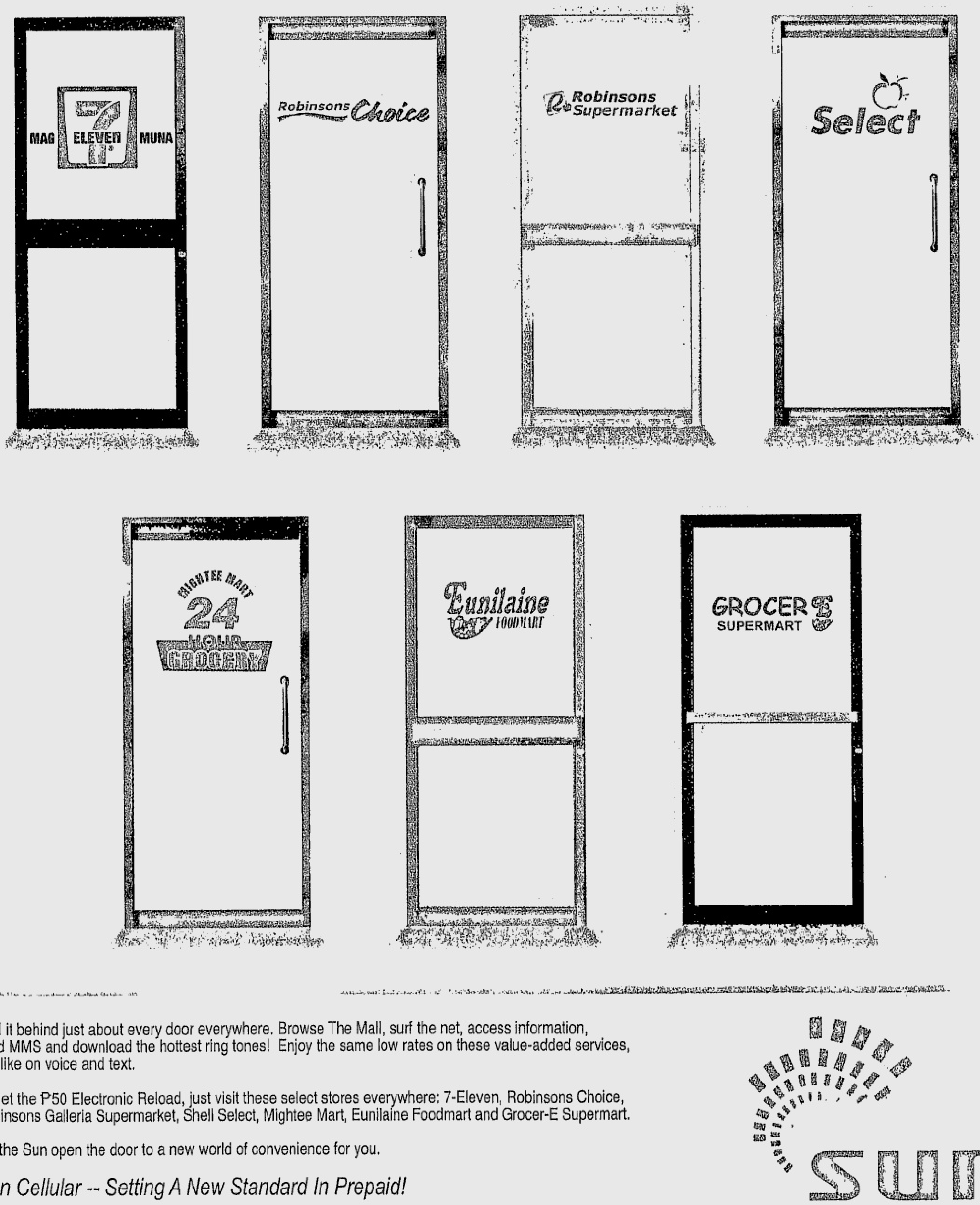
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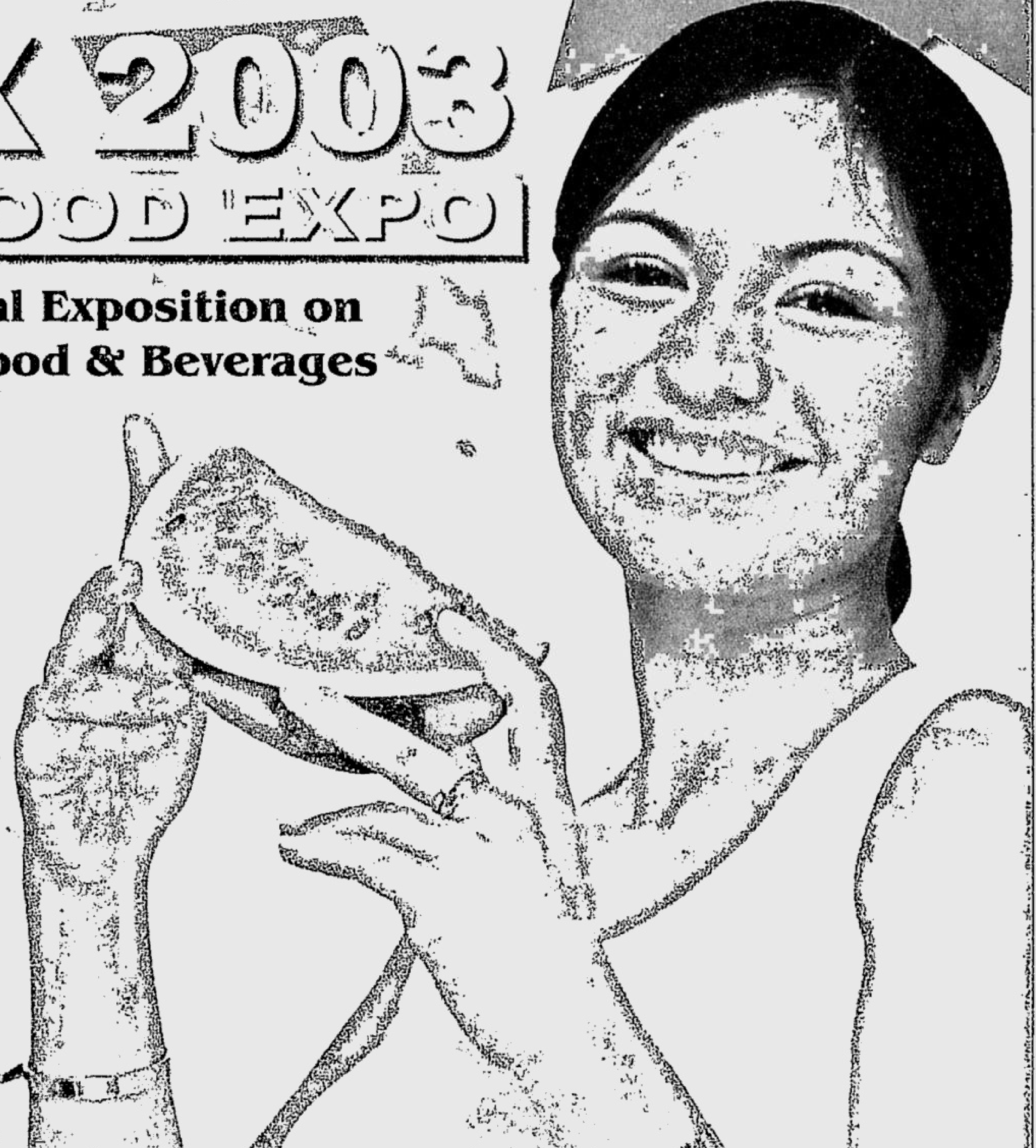

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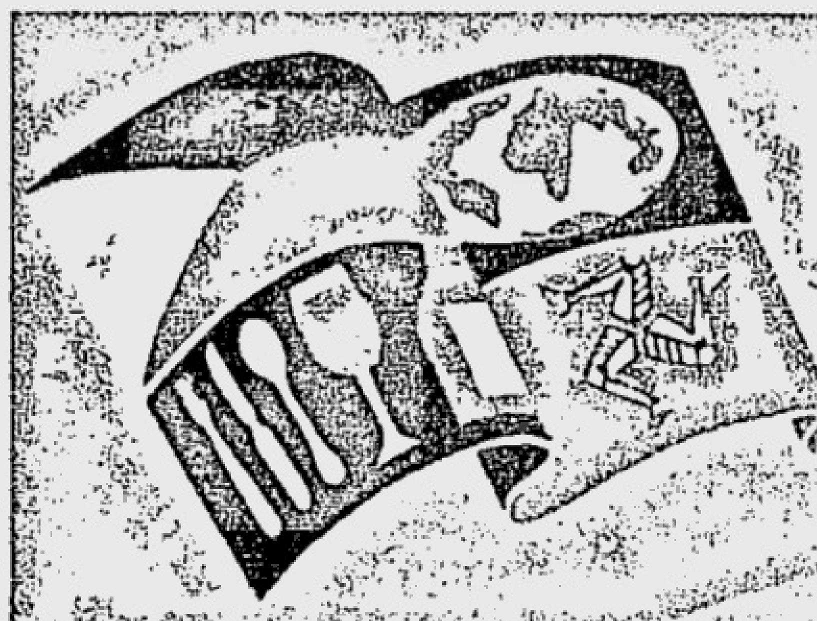

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MALACAÑAN PALACE
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My warmest felicitations to the organizers and participants to the World's Food Expo 2003.

I commend the various stakeholders of the food industry for contributing to this event. The growth of our food industry will serve as a good foundation for the strength and competitiveness of our economy. This your continuing support to the government in the achievement of this goal will contribute to nation a building.

I urge all of you to help and persevere in our efforts to upgrade our food technology to meet production standards, to understand and continually adjust to markets changes, and to strive to meet global standards of quality and production.

MABUHAY!

GLORIA ACAPAGAL-ARROYO

PREMIER EVENTS PLUS GROUP, INC.

It is with much pride that we welcome everyone once again to the most anticipated food show of the year WOFEX 2003!

We are pleased that WOFEX has grown phenomenally, surpassing expectations of the food & beverage industry and clearly surprising the very people who deemed this event as short-lived.

Now more than ever, WOFEX is trail-blazing & attracting much attention. We take great pride in the tremendous support we've received, and there is no other event that can claim the growth rate of WOFEX in such a short span of time, making it the industry's fastest-growing event.

Through this event, we believe we are able to help create a healthy and dynamic business environment in the country. Through a myriad of adversities, WOFEX has stood its ground, and this year, we aim to prove more than ever, that this is the ultimate food show experience, the food event like no other!

Our gratitude to our sponsors, exhibitors and supporters is way beyond words. May we continue to work together to further build on the continuing success of World's Food Expo!

Maraming, Maraming, Salamat Po!

RAFAEL P. DIZON, III

WOFEX 2003
WORLD'S FOOD EXPO

THE FOOD EVENT OF THE YEAR OPENS TODAY!

The long wait is finally over! The most anticipated food event of the year opens today at the World Trade Center in Manila! **WORLDS' FOOD EXPO 2003 (WOFEX)**, the **3rd International Exposition on Worldwide Food and Beverages**, opens all three exhibit halls of the World Trade Center today, boasting of over 350 exhibit booths of the best food and beverages products from all over the world. Building on last year's success of generating an attendance of 25,322 registered trade visitors, **WOFEX 2003** is expected to welcome more than 30,000 visitors this year as it opens its doors from August 6 to 9, 2003 at the World Trade Center.

After a successful launch in 2001, WOFEX went on to surprise everybody by being one of the most competitive players in the industry, distinctly an event to watch out for. In just three years from inception, WOFEX has gained such popular acceptance from the major players of the food and beverage industry, the media and credible institutions in the country. Clearly, WOFEX 2003 has become one of the most phenomenal events in the trade expositions industry in terms of success and growth rate. The major strength of WOFEX is in progressively exceeding expectations by being the most innovative in its approach. WOFEX 2003 has gained a reputation for its pioneering ideas - a trademark in all Premier Events Plus Group, Inc. events. From its comprehensive line-up of top-grade seminars to being the first to introduce the concept of Co-located events, WOFEX 2003 definitely stands out as it continues to deliver its promise of bringing its exhibitors tremendous business opportunities and to its visitors, the ultimate food show experience!

A visit to World Trade Center will surely be worthwhile. WOFEX 2003 features wall-to-wall exhibit booth displays that will provide supply solutions to all kinds of needs. This year's line-up of co-located events are: Baker's Fair, Foodmach Expo, World Food Summit featuring the Culinary Workshop by the Hotel & Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines (HRCAP) & Catering Workshop by the Food Caterers Association of the Philippines (FCAP) among others and Taste Expo featuring two major culinary competitions, the Borges' Royal Chefs Manila 2003 and French Baker's Cold Kitchen Fest 2. Be there as the best of the world comes to Manila for the country's best food event of the year! WOFEX 2003: You simply cannot afford to be left behind!

THE ORGANIZERS : THE PEOPLE BEHIND PEPGROUP

World's Food Expo is wholly owned and run by ***Premier Events Plus Group****, Inc. or* ***PEPGroup*** *for short. Interestingly enough, PEPGroup was started with the simplest of plans to have a sideline among friends. But small intentions are often taken over by big ideas. With bright ideas, extensive experience, creative minds and a competent staff, PEPGroup has already become a major player in the country's events management industry inspite of the company's relative infancy of 3 years in existence.*

Rafael "Boydee" Dizon, III *: Ilonggo and Taguigueno, a 31-year old young dynamo, is the Chairman of Premier Events Plus Group, Inc. This entrepreneur at heart who is a Cum Laude at University of Southern California USA holds a degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with emphasis on Entrepreneurial Programs. He currently serves as Director for several other companies like the Victoria Wave Special Economic Zone, Disc Lock Corporation of USA, Golden Ridge USA, Victoria Wave Concrete Products, Asia Pacific Int'l Terminal and RPD Intelligence and Security Agency among many other business endeavors here and abroad. Having a "green thumb" in business, Boydee Dizon brings to PEPGroup his sharp business acumen and the entrepreneurial spirit to drive it to great heights in a short span of time.*

Joel Pascual *: PEPGroup's President, Joel Pascual, is a Professional Mechanical Engineer from the De La Salle University and a Masteral Degree holder in Business Administration from the same school. Having ran the family's industrial refrigeration construction company for almost a decade, Joel decided to venture on business endeavors of his own. Having put up his own printing and advertising company, Ideas Unlimited, Inc., and a food business, Big Burp Company, he's had both creative and hands-on experience of going into trade events. Backed by years of experience in handling conventions, exhibits, and the like, Joel brings into PEPGroup the creative side and the expertise in the overall management of Premier Events Plus Group and its many projects.*

Randy Manaloto *: One of the brains behind the success that is Premier Events Plus Group Inc., is newly-married, Bacolod native Simon Randy O. Manaloto. This young businessman who holds the position of Vice-President for Finance of PEPGroup, is a graduate of BS Management Engineering from Ateneo de Manila University. Being the inexhaustible energy that he is, Randy also serves as Director for several other companies like Island Internet Inc. (Phils. & USA), Smart Mail Inc. (Mail Boxes Etc.) and Raymond Realty Corp. to name a few. Having learned the ins and outs of proper business practices from his many business endeavors, Randy brings to the group sound financial management and tons of excellent ideas.*

The PEPGroup Team *: with a complement of professional, young, dynamic & very creative staff that has been well-trained to consistently have the drive to always rise above the ordinary, these are definitely the reasons why events by PEPGroup always spell out a marked difference.* ***WE EXIST SO WE CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN!***

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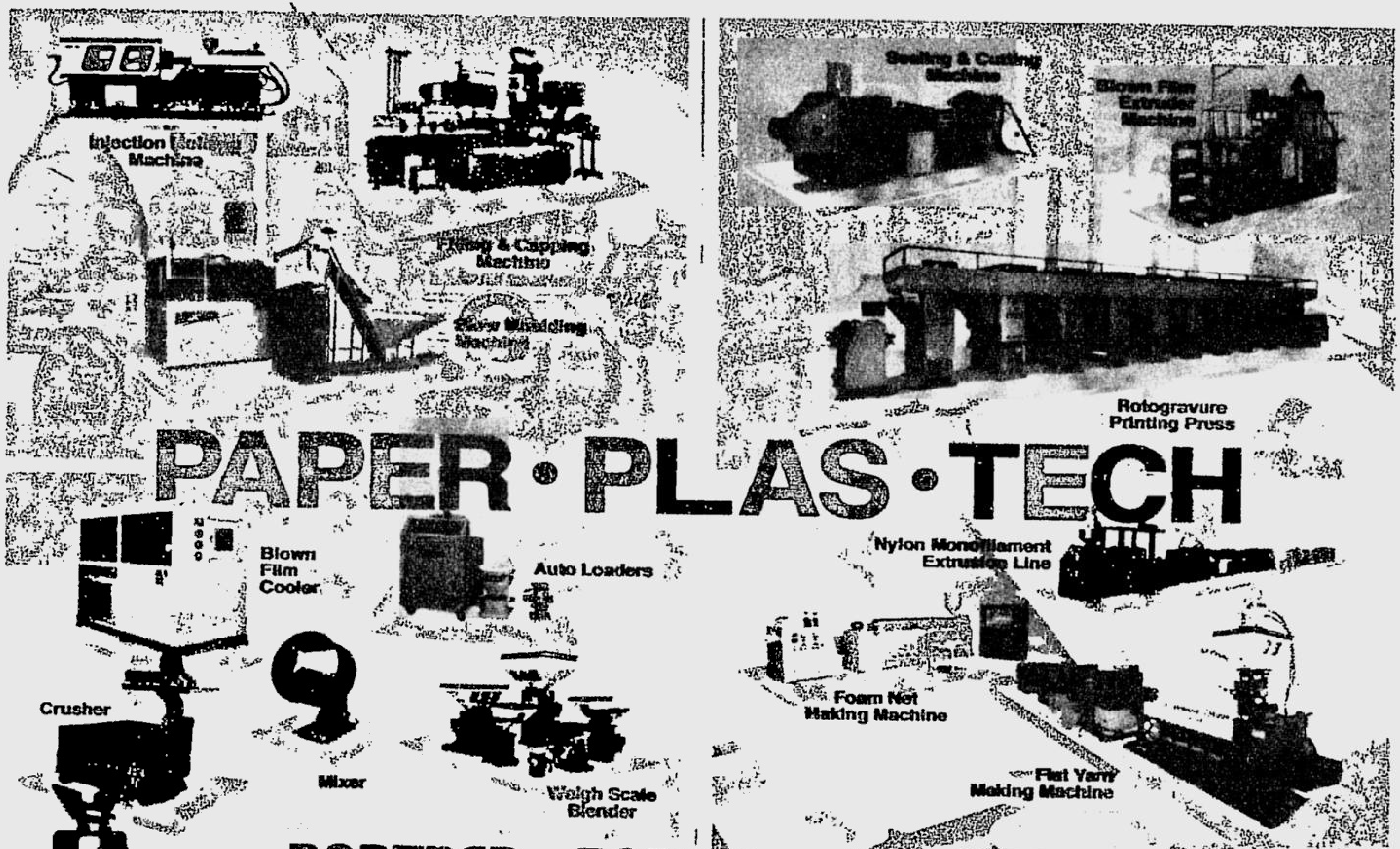
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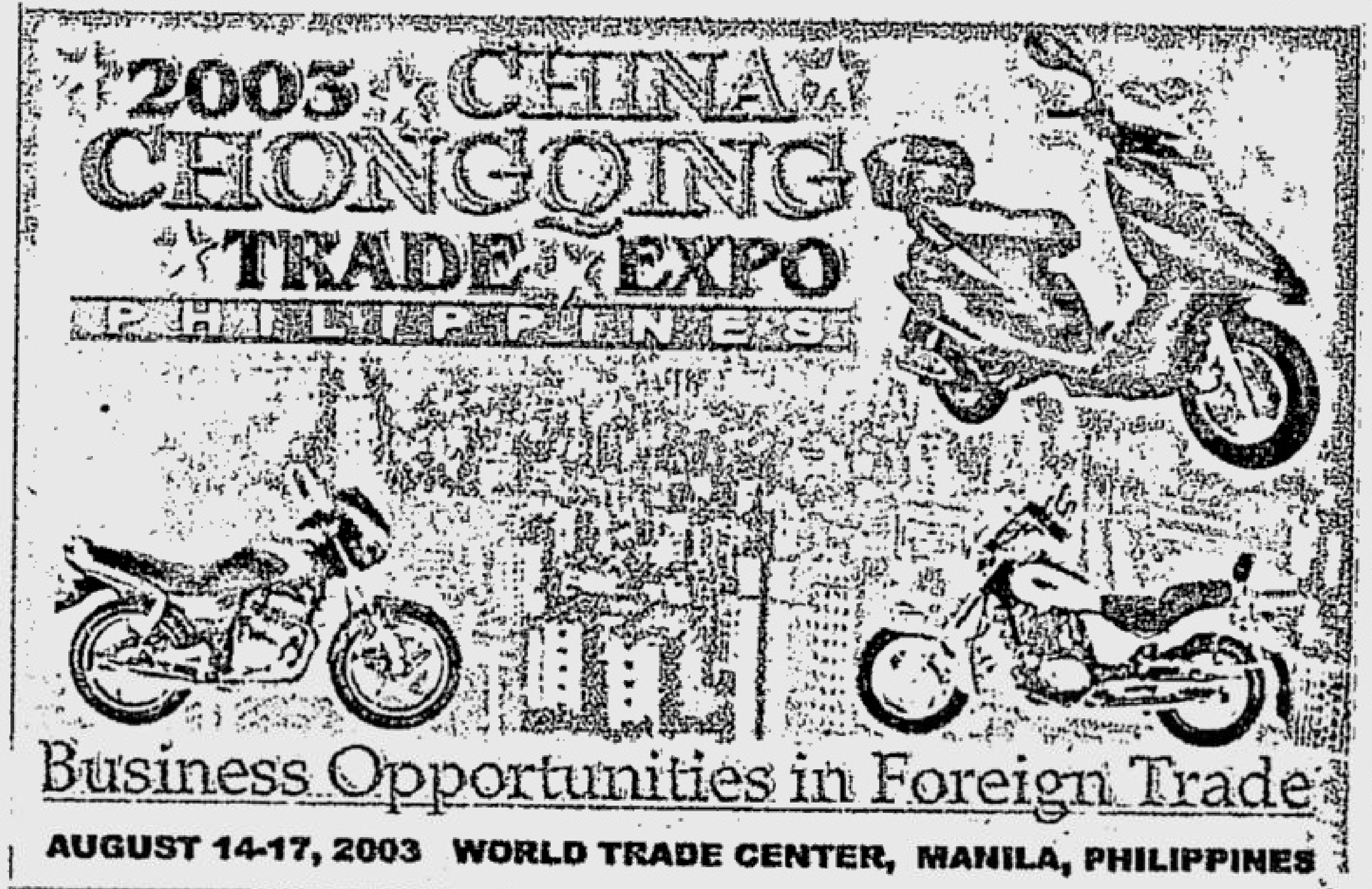
2003 CHINA CHONGQING TRADE EXPO PHILIPPINES

Business Opportunities in Foreign Trade

AUGUST 14-17, 2003 WORLD TRADE CENTER, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

CALL PREMIER EVENTS PLUS GROUP FOR INQUIRIES : 9297983/93, 4364711/12

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

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Attended by Decision Makers
of Various Industries from
all over the Philippines

OCTOBER [illegible]-17, 2003 MANILA HOTEL

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

WORLD FOOD SUMMIT

DAY 1 AUGUST 6 WEDNESDAY

ENTREPRENEUR SERIES *by Entrepreneur Magazine* (FREE)

1:00 PM	Creating a Business Plan	Rowena Cerda of FranCorp
2:00 PM	Computing for Profits	Rowena Cerda of FranCorp
3:30 PM	Getting Business Licenses	DTI Provincial Director Fernando Manfoste
4:30 PM	Protecting Your Trademark	Lenny B. Raz of the Bureau of of the Bureau of Trademarks

RESTAURANT SERIES (FREE)

12:00 NN	Feng Shui for Restaurants	Master Aldrio Dalumpines of Feng Shui Emergency
2:00 PM	Competing in a New Restaurant Environment	Johnlu Koa of French Baker
3:30 PM	Marketing Strategies for Restaurants	Josiah Go of Mansmith & Fielders

DAY 2 AUGUST 7 THURSDAY

ENTREPRENEUR SERIES PART II *by Entrepreneur Magazine* (FREE)

1:00 PM	Coming Up With The Right Brand	Kirby Quintal
2:00 PM	Finding The Right Location	Don Duero of Dream Plaza
3:30 PM	Raising Money For Your Business / Different Sources of Funds	Katrina Sanvictores of Export Bank
4:30 PM	Launching Your Business	Raffy Recio of FranCorp
5 30 PM	Franchising Your Business	Noel Siggaoat, President of Franlink Asia

BAKERY SERIES (BY INVITATION ONLY)

1:00 to 6 00 PM	Innovative Baking	Cosmic Chemical Corporation

DAY 3 AUGUST 8 FRIDAY

FOOD TECHNOLOGIES SERIES (FREE)

1.00 PM	Proper Food Handling	Kimberly Clark
2:00 PM	Toll Manufacturing: Bridging Links Between Farm and Trade	Northfield Laboratories
3:30 PM	How to Acquire a Halal Certification	Dir. Datu Tahir Lidasan Jr., Office of Muslim Affairs
4:30 PM	Safety Handling Tips	Petron Gasul Corporation

CULINARY SERIES (P 900 for the Series)

1:00 to 5:00 PM	Culinary Series with HRCAP	Hotel and Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines

DAY 4 AUGUST 9 SATURDAY

DEVELOPING A WINNING TEAM IN THE FOOD BUSINESS (P 500 for the Series)

1:00 to 5:00 PM	What kind of employees must we have to win the competition? How do we instill quality service and consciousness in our people? How can we produce happy and productive people?	TEAMS (Training Experts and Management Specialist) Consulting, Inc.

CATERING SERIES (P 900 for the Series)

1:00 to 5:00 PM	Success Stories Marketing and Promoting your Business Food Safety Tips Menu Planning and Costing Flower Arrangement and Waitering Culinary Demonstration	Food Caterer's Association of the Philippines (FCAP)

TASTE EXPO

DAY 1 AUGUST 6 WEDNESDAY

11:00 AM	Meat Processing with the Guru	Ms. Lourdes Rivera of Spices and Food Mix Plant
1 00 PM	Patisserie 101. Baked Goodies and Desserts	Maya Kitchens
2:00 PM	Baking Demonstration	Dorothy Ferrerie of Dorothys School of Baking c/o FOOD Magazine
3:00 PM	**Borges ROYAL CHEFS MANILA 2003**	presented by Borges Olive Oil, exclusively distributed by Oriental Merchants Inc

DAY 2 AUGUST 7 THURSDAY

10:00 AM	Culinary Demonstration	Tefal
12:00 PM	Baking 101	Well Done Metals, Avic International, Lim Ket Kai, Les Orientes, Philippine Foremost Milling, JS Enterprises c/o PENCO Sugar
2:00 PM	Culinary Demo	McCormick
3 00 PM	Culinary Demo	Jundy Gueco c/o Food Magazine
4:00 PM	Cooking with the PROs	Hotel and Restaurant Chefs Association of the Philippines (HRCAP)

DAY 3 AUGUST 8 FRIDAY

12:00 PM	World Cuisines: Spanish	Don Anastacio de Alba and Chef Miguel de Alba of Alba Restaurant
1.00 PM	Table Setting Presentation	Deco Centrum c/o FOOD Magazine
2:00 PM	Sugar Flowers	Heny Sison c/o PENCO Sugar
4 00 PM	Innovative Baking	Cosmic Chemical Corporation

DAY 4 AUGUST 9 SATURDAY

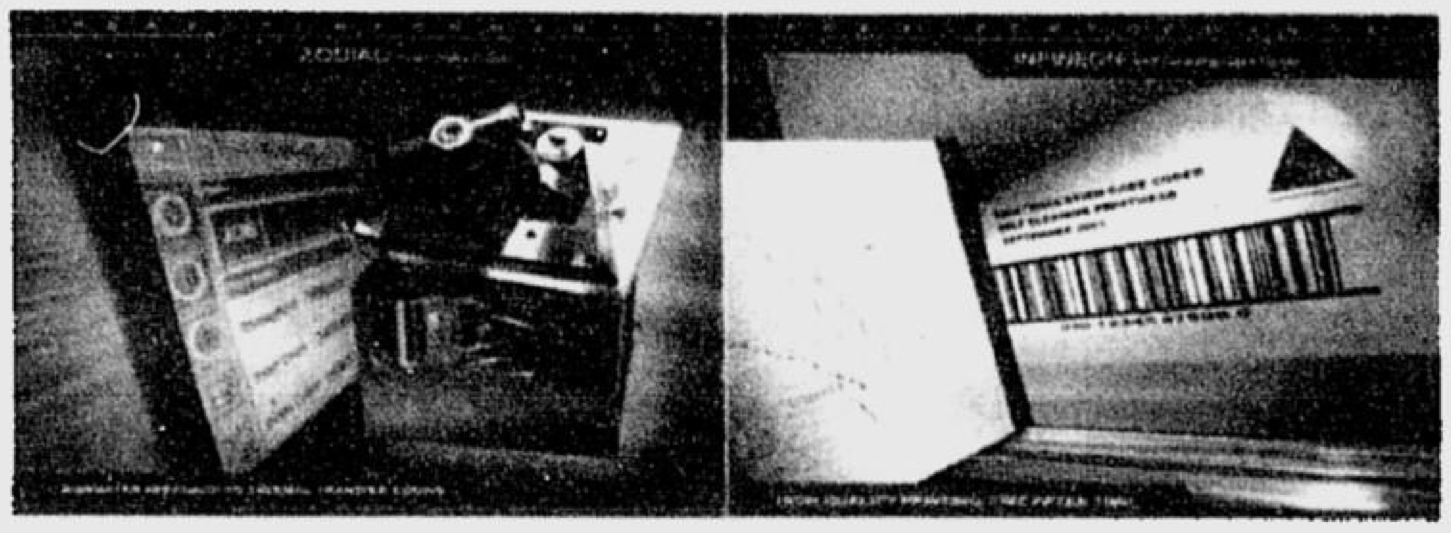
12:00 PM	Cooking Demonstration	Mega Fishing
1.00 PM	Culinary Demonstration	Ms. Norma Chikiamco, Editor-in-Chief of FOOD Magazine
2:00 PM	World Cuisines: Cantonese	Chef Wong Ping Hung of Cantonese Kitchen
3 00 PM	World Cuisines Mediterranean	Mike Torres of Cafe Mediterranean
4:00 PM	**French Bakers COLD KITCHEN FEST 2: A Creative Sandwiches Competition**	presented by French Baker, CDO, Foodsphere and Virginia Foods

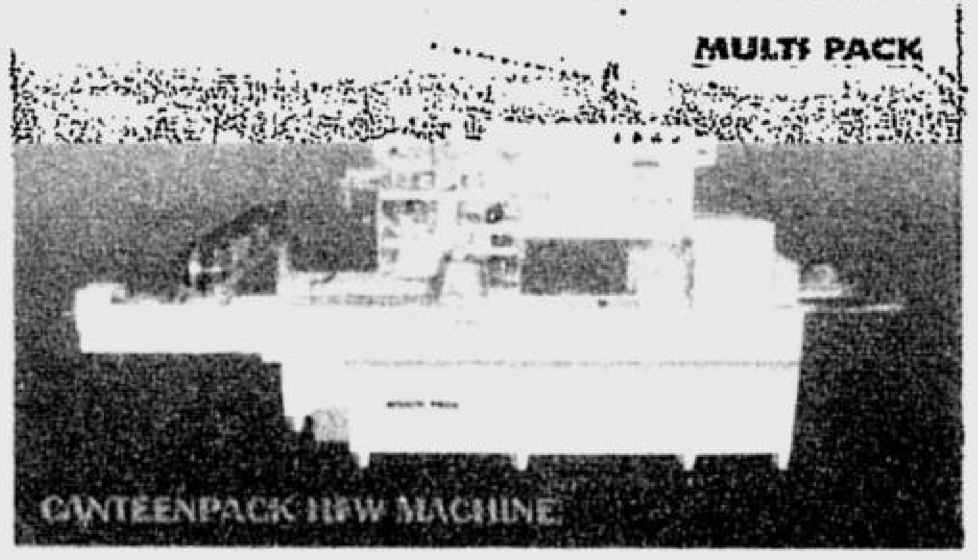
Schedules subject to change without prior notice. No one under 16 years old allowed. Expo Hours: 10am-7pm

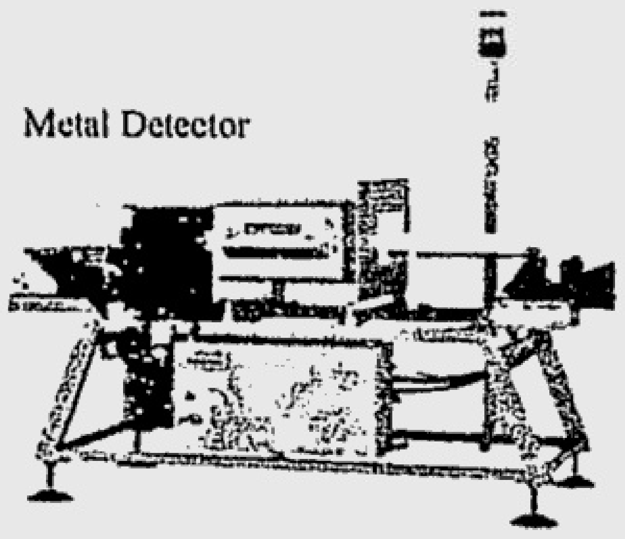
TASTE
CELEBRATING CULINARY ARTISTRY
EXPO

Chef Miguel Alba of Alba Restaurants

ROYAL CHEFS OF MANILA
COLD KITCHEN FEST
WORLD CUISINES
BAKING SERIES
TABLE SETTINGS
COOKING W. THE PROS







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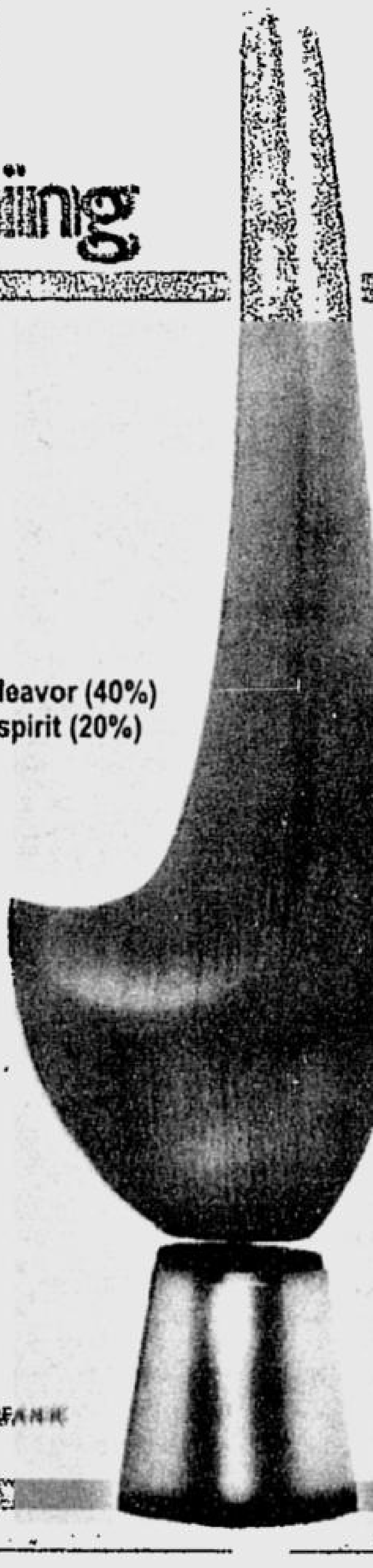
THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN AWARDS are given to men and women between the ages of 18 and 40 whose outstanding achievements in their chosen fields have contributed significantly to the welfare of their community and / or the nation.

AWARDS CRITERIA
1. Service to the community and / or nation (40%)
2. Professional excellence and integrity in their respective fields of endeavor (40%)
3. Leadership, including moral rectitude, innovativeness & pioneering spirit (20%)

BASIC QUALIFICATION
1. Filipino Citizen (naturalized citizens are qualified)
2. Between the ages of 18 and 40. (Nominee must not have reached the age of 41 by December 31, 2003)
3. Must not be a former TOYM Awardee

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Junior Chamber of the Philippines
14 Don A. Roces Ave., Quezon City 1103
Tel. Nos. : (632) 373-7907 to 09
Fax No. : (632) 374-2495
Email : info@toym.org / NOM@philjaycees.com
Website : www.toym.org / www.philjaycees.com



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WOFEX FEATURES, SPONSORS AND SHOW HIGHLIGHTS

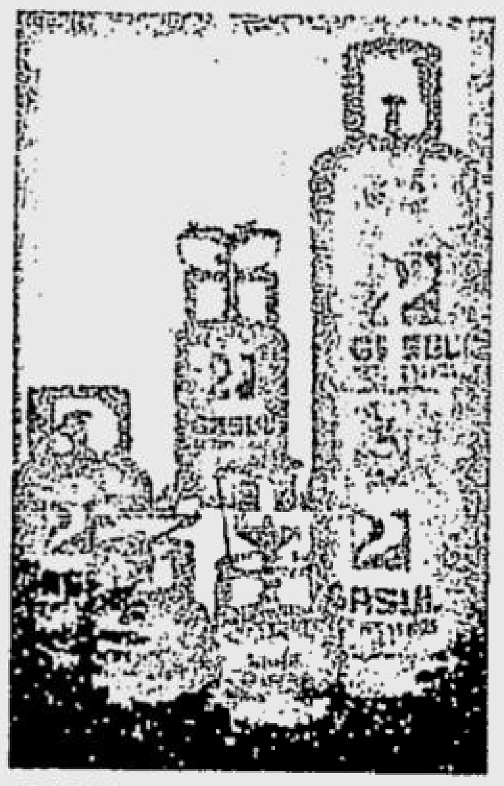
PAMPI. The Philippine Association of Meat Processors, Inc. once again joins WOFEX 2003. Shown in photo are PAMPI President Boy Tsukinhoy (Virginia Foods, Inc.) and Premier Events Plus Group President Joel Pascual.

S E-A E & C , importer of ice cream machines and other related equipment from Korea. In photo is Dave Mercado, Sales Manager of SE - A E & C and Boydee Dizon, Chairman of PEPGroup.

SWEETLINK, INC. will exhibit its exclusively distributed line of premier chocolate spread from Germany which comes in different variants: Nussenia, Winni, Yoyo, Knusper, Otello and Zebra (shown in photo).

CRYO, The Reefer Company, the only company in the Philippines that offers a full line of refrigerated services from land and sea-based shipments. In photo from left, Bobby Aquino (Director for Corporate Services), Victor Lorenzo (President, Cryo), Boydee Dizon (Chairman, PEPGroup), Barbara Acquiz (Director of Sales & Operations).

BACCHUS INTERNATIONAL, the leading supplier of the finest foods from all over the world, is once again a proud presentor of WOFEX. With the addition of new and exciting lines in its roster of fine products, the huge 25-booth setup of Bacchus will continue to be the centerpiece of WOFEX.



PETRON GASUL, is a sponsor of the World's Food Expo. Not only is Petron Gasul going to promote its products through the exclusive use in the Taste Expo culinary competitions and demonstrations but Petron is also conducting a free seminar on Safety Handling Tips, a useful seminar for every household and food establishment.

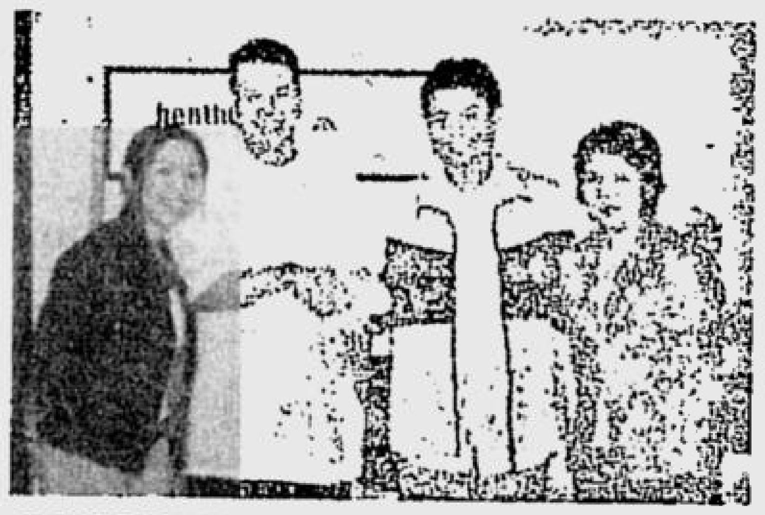
JCG FRANCHISE CORP., a growing chain of Bakeshop that has thrived from a tradition of baking excellence. In photo from left, Johnny Go (owner, JCG), Congressman Harry Angping (Chairman, Committee on Trade), Randy Manaloto (VP Finance, PEPGroup)

NISSAN SEIKO CORP., engaged in the packaging business focusing on the supply of world-class state of the art packaging machineries like jelly & juices, design-implementation-installation-maintenance of packaging systems, quality supply of packaging consumables & materials among others.

BESTERM INT'L CORP., is engaged into bakery / bakeshop and commercial industrial refrigeration equipment from Europe and Asia representing Eurofours, Sveba Dahlen, Mondial Forni, SPAR and Medallion.

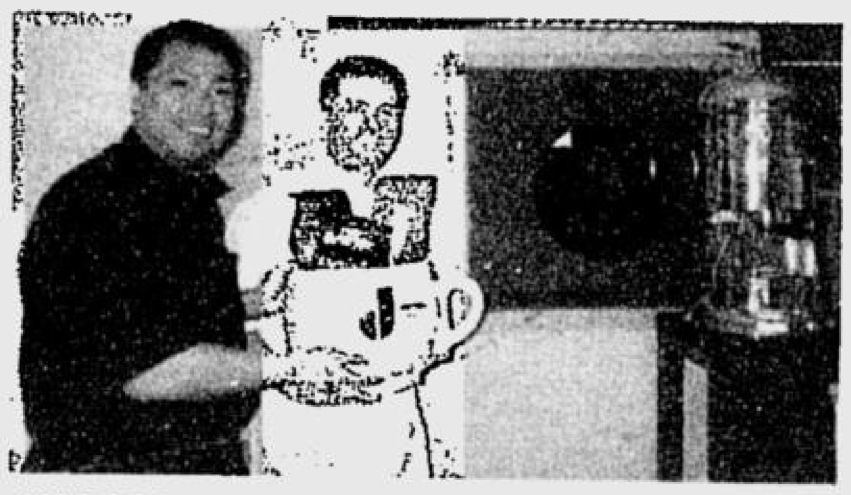
SOLA ICED TEA: Real Brewed,All Natural! Comes in 3 different flavors, Lemon, Raspberry or Peach Flavors. See them at the WOFEX 2003!!!

ALEXANREY ENTERPRISES INC., exclusive distributor of Zespri Kiwi Fruits, Calci-Pro Toothpaste, Kjedsens Butter Cookies, Mabuti Sardines, Minerva Sardines, Happy Cow Cheese among others. In photo , Leonardo Yu (Consultant, Alexanrey), Randy Manaloto (VP-Finance, PEPGroup). Esther Yu (President, Alexanrey), Bel Camarsi (Special Events Coordinator, PEPGroup)



GOMECO METAL CORP., leading manufacturer of high quality stainless steel food service equipment. Gomeco provides the needs for various industries like hotels, restaurants, resorts, fast-food chains, bakeries, schools, hospitals and other institutions that require a large scale food service systems. In photo shows Oliver Kaw of Gomeco and Boydee Dizon of PEPGroup.

ORIENTAL MERCHANTS, exclusive distributor of Borges, the Olive Oil Masters since 1896 , sponsors the Borges Royal Chefs Manila 2003, a professional culinary competition highlighting Borges products which include Extra Virgin Oil and Specialty Vinegar among others. This will take place on Aug. 6, 2003 , 3pm at the Taste Expo Stage of WOFEX



ALLEGRO BEVERAGE CORP., distributors of Nuova Simonelli Espresso Equipment from Italy, Frosty Factory Slush and Soft Serve Ice Cream Equipment from the US, and Daneli Caffee Espresso Beans from Rome. In photo shows Leo de Leon, President of Allegro and Randy Manaloto, VP-Finance of PEPGroup.

FCAP, the Food Caterer's Association of the Philippines will once again provide WOFEX visitors a chance to feast on the individual specialties of each caterer, showcasing the versatility of cuisine, the finery of presentation & professionalism of service of its members. A themed table setting exhibit will also be a highlight of the expo.

K-LITE, Manila's Lite Alternative goes live at WOFEX 2003. K-Lite being the Official Radio Station of WOFEX will play live on-site from August 6 to 9, 2003 at the World Trade Center, Manila. In photo are Nigel Gamalong, Program Director of K-Lite and Boydee Dizon, Chairman of PEPGroup signing the agreement.

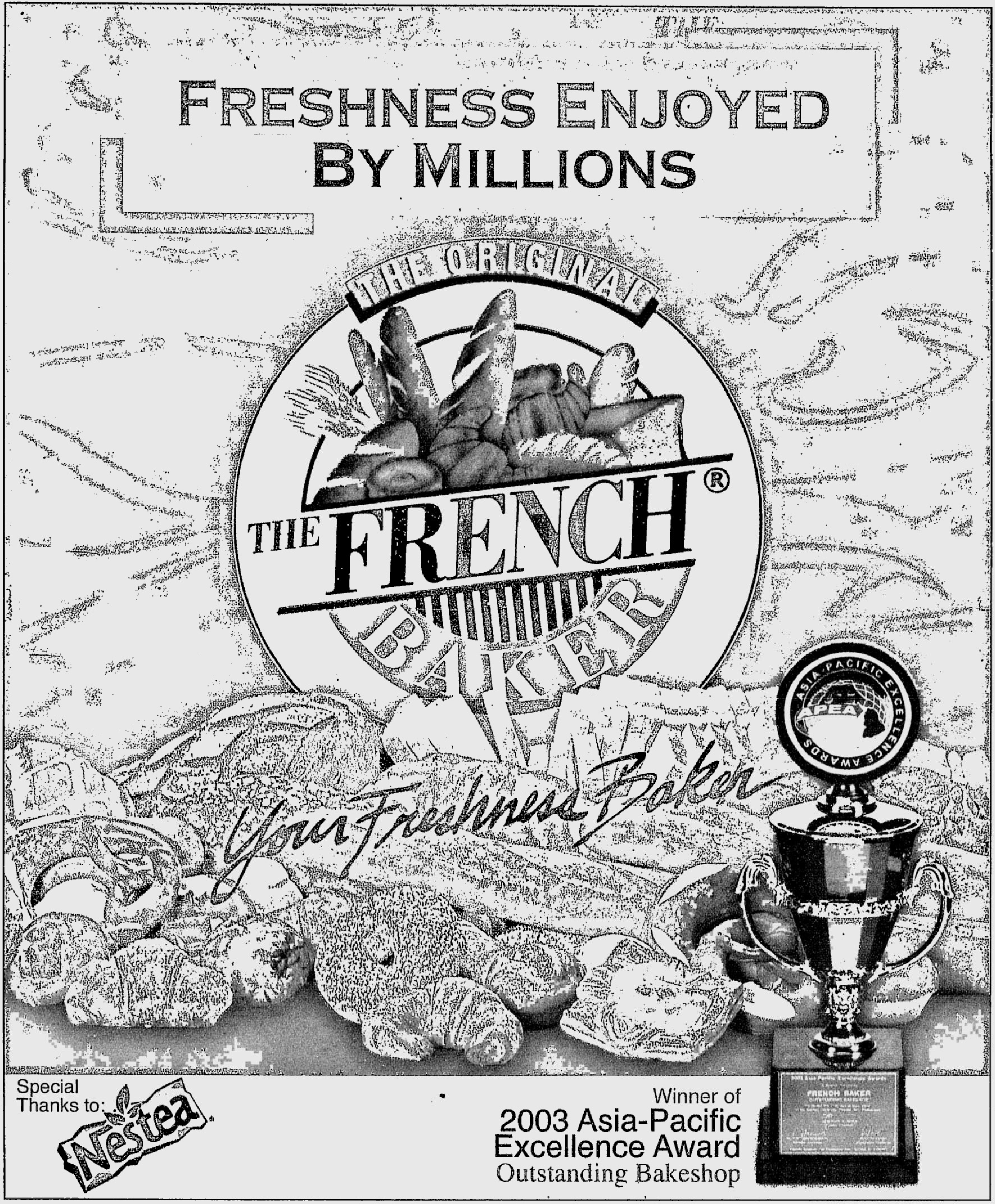
TASTE OF THE EXPO

TASTE EXPO, a co-located event of WOFEX has been developing quite well through the years and is of great interest to many as the lineup of competitions include the Royal Chefs of Manila and the Cold Kitchen Fest : Creative Sandwiches Competition. Don't miss the excitement.

APEDA , the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority facilitates trade links between India producers and global markets. The main products looked after by APEDA are floriculture, fresh and processed fruits and vegetables, animal products and other processed foods and cereals.

LINK IMPORT EXPORT has been successful in developing a strong presence in the importation,distribution of various food products such as Presto-Avoset products, Flora products, country supreme green peas, Tyson Chicken Leg Quarter, Hamper Corned Beef, Sun Russet French Fries, Falcon's Valley Raw Cashew Nuts.Sunmaid Raisins Products, Comstock Pie-Filling and a lot more. In photo shows Link Import-Export doing a culinary demonstration using some of their various product line as ingredients.

...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE! VISIT WOFEX 2003 TODAY!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